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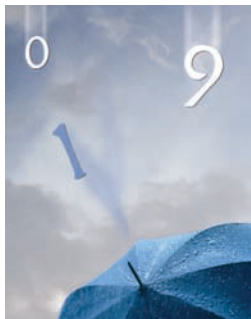
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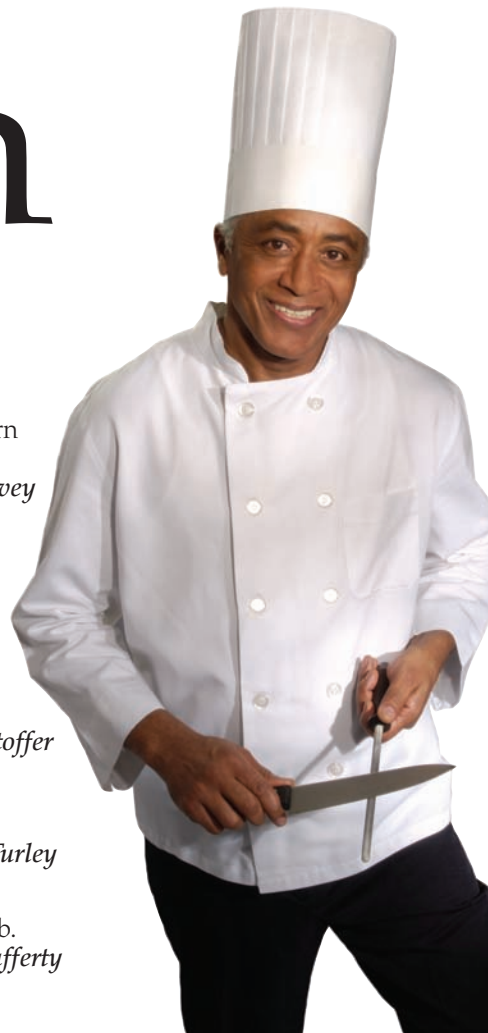
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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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<http://www.legion.org>

National Commander **Ronald F. Conley**

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EDITORIAL

Editor **John Raughter**

Managing Editor **Jeff Stoffer**

Contributing Editor **Steve Brooks**

Assistant Editor **James V. Carroll**

Assistant Editor **Matt Grills**

Assistant Editor **Elissa Kaupisch**

Editorial Administrator **Patricia Marschand**

General Administrator **Brandy Ballenger**

General Administrator **Robin Bowman**

GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION

Graphics/Production Director **Jon Reynolds**

Art Director **Holly K. Soria**

Designer **Douglas Rollison**

Designer **King Dooxsee**

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director **Diane Andretti**

Advertising Assistant **Sara Palmer**

Advertising Assistant **Leslie Hankins**

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FOX ASSOCIATES, INC.

Publisher's Representatives

Chicago: (312) 644-3888

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Los Angeles: (213) 228-1250

Detroit: (248) 543-0068

Atlanta: (404) 497-7690

San Francisco: (415) 989-5804

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Good hunting

I just read James V. Carroll's article "Tip of the Spear" (January), which I enjoyed very much. With its integral supporting arms, the Marine Expeditionary Unit can unle-



ash immediate and overwhelming violence on a small part of any of our enemies' territory. What was not mentioned is that if the need arises,

this force can be multiplied exponentially by a carrier battle group, which is always close by. With more than 100 fighter and attack aircraft, naval gunfire and Tomahawk missiles from its cruisers, destroyers and submarines, this group can quickly join the fray.

The Bible states, "Beware of the rider of the pale horse, for when he comes, hell cometh with him." Indeed, these warrior Marines ride the pale gray ships of the mightiest Navy in the world, and when they come, hell comes with them.

I met some of this generation's Marines at Camp Pendleton in September while attending a reunion of the 3rd Marine Division. They are the smartest, most highly motivated Marines I have ever met, and all of them are built like lumberjacks. They cannot wait to go hunting for terrorists. I am frustrated I cannot turn the clock back 30 years and rejoin the ranks of these magnificent warriors. I wish them God's speed and good hunting.

— Larry S. Green, Cedar Hill, Tenn.

Doors of gold

I read the article "Are We Flying Safer Skies?" (January) and had to laugh at the prices of secure cockpit doors. Smaller jets would need \$30,000 doors, and a 747 would require a door costing \$120,000. What's the door made of, solid gold? It reminds me of those famous \$600 hammers and \$1,000 toilet seats the government bought in the past.

I have a 60-gun vault that cost \$1,250, and the door is only a component part. A similar door that is 45-minute burglar-proof for an airplane would cost about

\$2,000. May we see an itemized cost accounting for the \$120,000 door? No wonder the airlines are headed for bankruptcy. It's time to redo the numbers or contract it out to the manufacturers of gun vaults.

— Ron Benjamin, Mansfield, Pa.

Intolerable rules

I am a retired TWA captain, and I am amazed at the ridiculous arguments against arming pilots. Cockpit doors are kept locked once the aircraft leaves the gate. When a flight attendant wants to enter, she gives the prearranged knock and the pilot releases the lock. In the past, this was done by the flight engineer, whose station is nearest the door. That position should never have been eliminated. The extra security in the form of a third man in the cockpit itself is worth his cost.

Many people are under the false impression that a bullet fired in a pressurized aircraft will cause it to explode if the round penetrates the skin of the airplane. Nonsense. A cockpit is a small, confining space. It would be all but impossible for an armed pilot to miss a hijacker.

Security inspections have turned into a disaster. The people conducting them and their supervisors fail to show the slightest bit of common sense. Case in point: a captain, with his ID showing and in full uniform, was told to remove his cap. He balked for a moment and made a comment

about the absurdity of the situation. He was immediately handcuffed and dragged off to jail.

This, plus the no-smoking rule, which makes flying a living hell for 20 percent of people flying, has led to a drastic reduction in the number of travelers. Airlines are going bankrupt. Boeing has laid off 30,000 employees. United needs \$1.8 billion to survive. Things will not get better until the intolerable rules that caused this are done away with.

— Ed Toner, Brick, N.J.

No more flying

With pilots carrying guns, I will not be flying any longer. I wonder how many others feel the same way. During World War II, fighter pilots shot each other down with .30-caliber machine guns. Now we are supporting the right of pilots to conduct battles with guns on the planes they are supposed to be flying? Doesn't make sense to me.

— Gary A. Adams, Wabasha, Minn.

Childhood hero

I'd like to thank John Raughter for his great article on James Arness of "Gunsmoke" ("The Bravest Cowboy," January). Finally a breath of fresh air comes out of Hollywood instead of the usual anti-American sentiment. As someone who grew up during the '50s and '60s and served in Vietnam, it was nice to see one of my childhood heroes highlighted in the magazine. Arness epitomizes the type of stars we looked up to in that era, and his experiences in World War II only add to it. It's a shame today's youth don't have more men like Marshall Dillon to see on television.

— David C. Celano, Hatboro, Pa.

Strange policy

Ernest Lefever's article "The Essential CIA" (January) was interesting, but I guess in my old age I am becoming skeptical. I wonder if the story was not a plant by the CIA to make it look good.

Our government, while decrying dictatorships, has installed some and supported others, such as Baptista in Cuba, Papa Doc in Haiti and Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. It appears the boys in Washington speak with forked

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tongues. I would not believe any spy organization, no matter what country it represents. They are in the business of distorting the truth.

— Joseph H. Sullivan Jr., Hobe Sound, Fla.

Thin argument

I read with interest the statements made by Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., in the January issue (“U.S. Support of Condom Use,” Big Issues). Since I have worked as a latex chemist for a medical device manufacturer, I feel she left out some important facts.

Statistically speaking, latex condoms are only 85-percent effective in preventing pregnancy. But condom supporters say latex condoms are 99-percent effective in preventing AIDS. There is a definite inconsistency in the statements concerning effectiveness, especially since the one about pregnancy has been verified numerous times.

Also, thin latex products such as condoms and gloves have channels present in the final product. These channels can extend through all layers of the product. This is especially true of condoms, since they are usually made with two very thin layers.

I hope this will encourage people to learn the truth about thin latex products.

— Jay F. Schaefer, Moncks Corner, S.C.

Religious agenda

Rep. Dave Weldon claims the use of condoms fails to reduce the spread of HIV infections because it promotes “risky sexual behavior” and because it “denies the most fundamental principle of public health: primary prevention.”

As a Ph.D. scientist who has worked in the field of health-care sciences in academia, research institutions and industry for more than 30 years, I believe Weldon’s opinions are not based on scientific fact. In a couples study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in 1994, in which one person was infected with HIV and the other not, 123 couples who reported consistent condom use did not experience the partner becoming infected. In contrast, of the 122 couples who reported inconsistent use of condoms, 12 of the uninfected

partners became infected.

Weldon’s contention that condom use invites risky behavior is equivalent to saying that a police officer protected by a bulletproof vest is prone to be more involved in shootouts than unprotected officers. Nonsense.

Weldon claims that “as a medical doctor and a policymaker, I seek the most effective means to protect people’s lives and save their health.” To this I say, “Bunk!” Weldon is known to be a champion of religious-right principles. His policymaking positions on condoms, as well as many other issues, are based on his religious values – not medical science.

— David A. Marsh, Fort Worth, Texas

Choose living trust

Regarding the article “The Most Thoughtful Memo You Can Write” (January), I must respectfully disagree. Memos are just guides and contain no authority or legality. This information should be in a living-trust portfolio. These trust portfolios contain all the legal documents, details and requirements to settle an estate and pass it on as directed without probate. Regular and living wills are part of the trust portfolios.

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— Donald L. Schoechert, Montello, Wis.

Action, not talk

“This We Believe” (December) lends a ray of hope as long as it doesn’t turn out to be the normal lip service. Veterans deserve a lot more. I have in the past wondered why the three major veterans organizations didn’t quit scratching and get down to some serious digging. When will this bunch of gangsters we call Congress realize they work for us? It’s strange how they find money to shoot into space, support illegal aliens and fund everyone else’s medical care,

housing and food. Who has done more than the veteran to keep these people free so they can sponge off the taxpayer?

— Leslie Robertson, Afton, Wyo.

Join the fight

Why not propose having a check-off on tax returns indicating a dollar-amount contribution for VA funding? We have a presidential campaign check-off item that won’t affect our returns. I think any decent American citizen would approve of taking care of our veterans, and this avenue would allow citizens to participate in the fight against our enemies with the stroke of a pen. Other than enlisting in the military or joining a patriotic organization, what better way for civilians?

— Craig Scott, Parkville, Md.

GI shortchanged

In the December issue, a photo shows the remains of an American serviceman killed in Korea being brought off the aircraft by an honor guard. His casket is draped with the U.N. flag. Does that bother anyone else? I never swore to protect and defend the damn U.N. charter. I held up my hand and swore to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and I sure as hell didn’t want to be returned to the land I love under any banner but the Stars and Stripes. Boy, did they shortchange that poor lad.

Some subtle, almost imperceptible crapola is going on to sell the United Nations to the American people. We’re putting American servicemen in blue berets and helmets and now returning them in caskets covered by that meaningless U.N. flag. It’s bad enough we’re letting Kofi Annan dictate U.S. policy on Iraq. Now we’re requiring our warriors – who are no longer able to do anything about it – to suffer the indignity of not being returned under the colors they dutifully saluted and pledged allegiance to every morning in their elementary-school classrooms.

Personally, I’d prefer the Burger King flag or the one they fly over your local Mobil station before that baby-blue shoeshine rag.

— Ray Stone, Springfield, Va.

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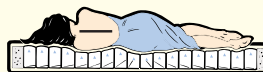
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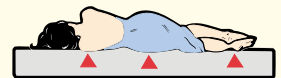
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In 1919, a group of World War I veterans, unhappy with the way they saw fellow veterans being treated, joined together to try to make a difference. They formed an organization based upon four pillars – veterans rehabilitation, Americanism, child welfare and national security. In the 84 years that followed, The American Legion has not strayed from these founding principles. Everything we do, every stand we take, every cause we support goes back to the ideals of our founding members.

Since that time, the Legion has been a part of a symbiotic relationship between the nation's veterans and Congress. The relationship is essential to making progress on issues critical to our organization, and thanks to that partnership, our organization can look back with pride on the good we have done for America. Our youth programs involve hundreds of thousands of children in activities that teach patriotism, responsibility and the spirit of competition. The GI Bill of Rights, which has benefited veterans of every war since World War II, came about because of an idea from Past National Commander Harry W. Colmery. Our lobbying efforts have led to better funding for veterans programs and quality-of-life improvements for U.S. servicemembers.

This organization has a lot to be proud of. But we must never rest on our laurels. There is always more work to do. As long as one veteran has to spend a ridiculous amount of time waiting in line for medical care, we have work to do. As long as one servicemember is forced to collect food stamps in order to feed his family, we have work to do.

For reasons such as these, The American Legion continues to go to Congress each year to confront these issues. Our National Executive Committee routinely passes a list of resolutions requiring legislative action on a range of issues critical to veterans and to the strength of America. At the National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., last summer, the NEC adopted 200 resolutions with legislative intent. Some of those resolutions include passage of a constitutional amendment giving Congress power to protect the American flag from physical desecration, changing VA funding from discretionary to mandatory, actively monitoring the CARES process at every level to assure service to veterans prevails over budget-reduction interests, and ensuring adequate funds are budgeted to main-

tain a strong national defense. Defense spending must include quality-of-life improvements, such as equitable pay, accessible health care, adequate housing and access to quality education for servicemembers and their dependents.

Thanks to the Internet, it's fairly easy to monitor the status of these issues. Linked from the Legion's Web site is our Legislative Action Center. It can be found at capwiz.com/legion/home/ and provides a list of current issues and recent votes. It also lists every member of Congress and ways to contact media regarding the issues.

The American Legion has a Legislative Commission to work with members of Congress. It has a legislative staff in Washington to reinforce the need for passage of specific bills. But with 535 members of Congress, those two groups can't do the job by themselves. That's where the Legion's Legislative Council comes into the picture. The Legislative Council is a network of active Legionnaires who aid our organization's lobbying efforts. There is at least one member of the council for every member of Congress. Each department also has a vice chairman of the Legislative Council. The council constantly reminds Congress of issues important to the Legion.

Members of the council serve a valuable role in helping advance the Legion's legislative priorities through Congress. They make their representatives and senators aware of Legion resolutions that require congressional action. By maintaining regular contact with their politicians, council members keep a pulse on the status of these issues. Since many members of the House and Senate are not veterans, council members also serve as advisers on veterans affairs and military issues for their assigned lawmakers.

This is a grass-roots organization. Every Legionnaire is a lobbyist. More importantly, Legionnaires vote. Our strength does not come from one person from the organization addressing a House or Senate committee. It comes from individual Legionnaires working hand in hand with the nation's leaders toward achieving our common goals. It takes Legionnaires from all over the country to make this happen. We, the people, speaking in one voice – loud and clear – in every congressional district.

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If you need better blood sugar control, ask your doctor about GLUCOVANCE. When diet and exercise are not enough, adding GLUCOVANCE can help you lower your blood sugar better than the leading diabetes pill (metformin HCl).* GLUCOVANCE works by helping your body release more insulin and works, in part, by helping your body use insulin more effectively. GLUCOVANCE works in these ways to provide proven blood sugar control. By taking GLUCOVANCE, you may be able to lower your dose of metformin or glyburide.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: GLUCOVANCE (Glyburide and Metformin HCl Tablets) is not for everyone. In rare cases, GLUCOVANCE may cause lactic acidosis (buildup of lactic acid in the blood), which is serious and can be fatal in half the cases. This occurs mainly in people whose kidneys are not functioning properly. Tell your doctor about your alcohol use because it can increase your risk. You should not take GLUCOVANCE if you: have kidney problems, are 80 or older (unless your kidneys have been tested), are taking medication for heart failure, are seriously dehydrated, have a severe infection, or if you have or have had liver disease.

The most common side effect is diarrhea. Symptoms of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) such as lightheadedness, dizziness, shakiness or hunger may also occur.

Please see additional important patient information on next page.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT **glucovance™**
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* IMS script data week ending November 1, 2002

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PATIENT INFORMATION ABOUT GLUCOVANCE®

(Glyburide and Metformin HCl Tablets)

WARNING: A small number of people who have taken metformin hydrochloride have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis. Properly functioning kidneys are needed to help prevent lactic acidosis. Most people with kidney problems should not take GLUCOVANCE. (See Question Nos. 9-13.)

Q1. Why do I need to take GLUCOVANCE?

Your doctor has prescribed GLUCOVANCE to treat your type 2 diabetes. This is also known as non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.

Q2. What is type 2 diabetes?

People with diabetes are not able to make enough insulin and/or respond normally to the insulin their body does make. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood. This can lead to serious medical problems including kidney damage, amputations, and blindness. Diabetes is also closely linked to heart disease. The main goal of treating diabetes is to lower your blood sugar to a normal level.

Q3. Why is it important to control type 2 diabetes?

The main goal of treating diabetes is to lower your blood sugar to a normal level. Studies have shown that good control of blood sugar may prevent or delay complications such as heart disease, kidney disease, or blindness.

Q4. How is type 2 diabetes usually controlled?

High blood sugar can be lowered by diet and exercise, by a number of oral medications, and by insulin injections. Before taking GLUCOVANCE you should first try to control your diabetes by exercise and weight loss. Even if you are taking GLUCOVANCE, you should still exercise and follow the diet recommended for your diabetes.

Q5. Does GLUCOVANCE work differently from other glucose-control medications?

Yes it does. GLUCOVANCE combines two glucose lowering drugs, glyburide and metformin. These two drugs work together to improve the different metabolic defects found in type 2 diabetes. Glyburide lowers blood sugar primarily by causing more of the body's own insulin to be released, and metformin lowers blood sugar, in part, by helping your body use your own insulin more effectively. Together, they are efficient in helping you achieve better glucose control.

Q6. What happens if my blood sugar is still too high?

When blood sugar cannot be lowered enough by GLUCOVANCE your doctor may prescribe injectable insulin or take other measures to control your diabetes.

Q7. Can GLUCOVANCE cause side effects?

GLUCOVANCE, like all blood sugar-lowering medications, can cause side effects in some patients. Most of these side effects are minor. However, there are also serious, but rare, side effects related to GLUCOVANCE (see Q9 - Q13).

Q8. What are the most common side effects of GLUCOVANCE?

The most common side effects of GLUCOVANCE are normally minor ones such as diarrhea, nausea, and upset stomach. If these side effects occur, they usually occur during the first few weeks of therapy. Taking your GLUCOVANCE with meals can help reduce these side effects.

Less frequently, symptoms of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), such as lightheadedness, dizziness, shakiness, or hunger may occur. The risk of hypoglycemic symptoms increases when meals are skipped, too much alcohol is consumed, or heavy exercise occurs without enough food. Following the advice of your doctor can help you to avoid these symptoms.

Q9. Are there any serious side effects that GLUCOVANCE can cause?

GLUCOVANCE rarely causes serious side effects. The most serious side effect that GLUCOVANCE can cause is called lactic acidosis.

Q10. What is lactic acidosis and can it happen to me?

Lactic acidosis is caused by a buildup of lactic acid in the blood. Lactic acidosis associated with metformin is rare and has occurred mostly in people whose kidneys were not working normally. Lactic acidosis has been reported in about one in 33,000 patients taking metformin over the course of a year. Although rare, if lactic acidosis does occur, it can be fatal in up to half the cases.

It's also important for your liver to be working normally when you take GLUCOVANCE. Your liver helps remove lactic acid from your bloodstream.

Your doctor will monitor your diabetes and may perform blood tests on you from time to time to make sure your kidneys and your liver are functioning normally.

There is no evidence that GLUCOVANCE causes harm to the kidneys or liver.

Q11. Are there other risk factors for lactic acidosis?

Your risk of developing lactic acidosis from taking GLUCOVANCE (Glyburide and Metformin HCl Tablets) is very low as long as your kidneys and liver are healthy. However, some factors can increase your risk because they can affect kidney and liver function. You should discuss your risk with your physician.

You should not take GLUCOVANCE if:

- You have chronic kidney or liver problems
- You have congestive heart failure which is treated with medications, e.g., digoxin (Lanoxin®) or furosemide (Lasix®)
- You drink alcohol excessively (all the time or short-term "binge" drinking)
- You are seriously dehydrated (have lost a large amount of body fluids)
- You are going to have certain x-ray procedures with injectable contrast agents
- You are going to have surgery
- You develop a serious condition such as a heart attack, severe infection, or a stroke
- You are ≥80 years of age and have NOT had your kidney function tested

Q12. What are the symptoms of lactic acidosis?

Some of the symptoms include: feeling very weak, tired or uncomfortable; unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort, feeling cold, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, or suddenly developing a slow or irregular heartbeat.

If you notice these symptoms, or if your medical condition has suddenly changed, stop taking GLUCOVANCE tablets and call your doctor right away. Lactic acidosis is a medical emergency that must be treated in a hospital.

Q13. What does my doctor need to know to decrease my risk of lactic acidosis?

Tell your doctor if you have an illness that results in severe vomiting, diarrhea, and/or fever, or if your intake of fluids is significantly reduced. These situations can lead to severe dehydration, and it may be necessary to stop taking GLUCOVANCE temporarily.

You should let your doctor know if you are going to have any surgery or specialized x-ray procedures that require injection of contrast agents. GLUCOVANCE therapy will need to be stopped temporarily in such instances.

Q14. Can I take GLUCOVANCE with other medications?

Remind your doctor that you are taking GLUCOVANCE when any new drug is prescribed or a change is made in how you take a drug already prescribed. GLUCOVANCE may interfere with the way some drugs work and some drugs may interfere with the action of GLUCOVANCE.

Q15. What if I become pregnant while taking GLUCOVANCE?

Tell your doctor if you plan to become pregnant or have become pregnant. As with other oral glucose-control medications, you should not take GLUCOVANCE during pregnancy.

Usually your doctor will prescribe insulin while you are pregnant. As with all medications, you and your doctor should discuss the use of GLUCOVANCE if you are nursing a child.

Q16. How do I take GLUCOVANCE?

Your doctor will tell you how many GLUCOVANCE tablets to take and how often. This should also be printed on the label of your prescription. You will probably be started on a low dose of GLUCOVANCE and your dosage will be increased gradually until your blood sugar is controlled.

Q17. Where can I get more information about GLUCOVANCE?

This leaflet is a summary of the most important information about GLUCOVANCE. If you have any questions or problems, you should talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider about type 2 diabetes as well as GLUCOVANCE and its side effects. There is also a leaflet (package insert) written for health professionals that your pharmacist can let you read.

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Raise the minimum wage?

SUPPORT

Sen. John Kerry
D-Mass.



My crewmates in Vietnam were volunteers who put their lives on the line for their country. They believed in a noble cause. When they came home, they went to work for America in a different way – as workers. Each of them knew what it meant to give an honest day's work for the minimum wage.

In 1969, a worker earning the minimum wage could own a house, raise a family and think seriously about sending a child to college. It is simply unacceptable that even as the American worker has increased productivity almost 75 percent in the

In 1969, a worker earning the minimum wage could own a house, raise a family and think seriously about sending a child to college.

past three decades, the minimum wage would have to increase to \$8.14 an hour just to restore the purchasing power it had 33 years ago. And yet politicians in Washington can't even agree to raise the minimum wage to \$6.55.

Hardworking families deserve a raise. Fairness demands it. So does economic common sense.

Too many working families feel like they are on a treadmill, working harder just to make ends meet. They worry about how to pay the taxes, pay the bills and save for retirement.

The only way to guarantee any of those things is to get the economy moving – and you can't do that until working Americans can pump money back into the economy. Raising the minimum wage would help more than 11 million workers by giving them more money for rent, food and college savings.

Henry Ford knew that good wages create good economics. Americans would only want his cars when they could afford them, so he increased wages – boosting sales and raising worker productivity. Ford's decent wage helped set the stage for the nation's first minimum-wage laws.

Twenty years ago, the average CEO made 42 times what the average worker made.

Now the average is 531 times more.

It's time we take a page out of Henry Ford's book and give workers a raise so they can lead our economy to recovery.

Rep. Charlie Norwood
R-Ga.

OPPOSE



If the nation's economic slowdown has a silver lining, it is that consumers, producers, labor and management are all working together to turn things around.

Our job in Congress is to ensure that the federal government does all it can to limit the job loss, ease the transition into new jobs and, if necessary, to stay out of the way of a surging recovery.

Job creation, removing barriers to growth, and developing new policies and incentives to restore the economy are the true priorities of this Congress.

With these priorities foremost in our minds, it is fair to ask whether this is the right time to hike the national minimum wage. As of this writing, 8.5 million American workers are unemployed – the highest unemployment rate in nine years. In fact, the jobs that pay the starting wage are actually shrinking.

It has been said many times that the best welfare program is a job. We in Congress certainly need to remain true to this adage.

During an economic slowdown, the last hired are usually the first to be laid off.

Young workers, former welfare recipients and the unskilled are already bearing the great threat of job loss. Lower-skilled workers lose their jobs or cannot find work when the starting wage is set so high that higher-skilled workers are attracted to take their places. Raising the wages of the people that companies are laying off will only speed up the pink slips and prolong their unemployment.

One of the first orders of business for the 108th Congress was to extend unemployment benefits for those workers who were unemployed for six

months or more. We certainly do not want to be the cause of adding new workers to the unemployment rolls. Therefore, the test for determining the next priority must be whether or not a proposal secures greater job opportunity, flexibility and growth.

YOUR OPINIONS COUNT

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views in writing at the following addresses:

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U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3121

The Fighting Irish

Despite a stormy past, Northern Ireland's chances for peace are better than ever.

BY ROBERT MCGARVEY

Irish Protestants and Catholics have been at each others' throats for about 800 years now, making Northern Ireland the longest-running theatre of battle in Europe. When you ask experts why the combatants hate each other, the usual reaction is a shrug – not necessarily because there aren't explanations, but because the situation in Ireland is extraordinarily complex and multifaceted. "We should never be dismissive of the depth of feelings of the two sides, the deep emotional attachments," says Jim Rogers, managing director of the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Northern Ireland is about the size of Connecticut, a tiny speck on the western edge of Europe. But for as long as anybody can recall, it has been filled with bombings, shootings and violent political demonstrations.

On one side are the Catholics,

about 40 percent of the province's 1.6 million population. Their leaders are Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, both alleged to have been active members of the Irish Republican Army, the main guerilla force in Northern Ireland. One moderate Catholic faction expresses loyalty to John Hume, 1998 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

On the other side are the Protestants – about 60 percent of the population. They are led by Nobel Peace Prize winner David Trimble, who shared the 1998

award with Hume. Hardliners who want no compromises with Catholics follow the Rev. Ian Paisley, who leads the Democratic Unionist Party.

The British rule the province, so governmentally speaking Northern Ireland is no different than Wales or Scotland. "Northern Ireland is as British as Finchley," former prime minister and Finchley native Margaret Thatcher said in 1981.

The U.S. Connection. What's the U.S. interest in all this? For generations, Irish-Americans have



Twisted, smoldering metal remains after a bomb explodes on a double-decker bus in Northern Ireland. *corbis*



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keenly followed the conflict. In 1867, American Civil War veterans formed a nucleus of hardened fighters who – in the so-called Fenian Uprising – unsuccessfully sought to overthrow British rule in Ireland. In years since, Americans have generously donated cash to advance Irish interests; the IRA reputedly has been the primary beneficiary. Simply because so many Americans have deep Irish roots, Irish conflicts have always assumed importance in this country.

Just what has prompted Catholics and Protestants to enter this battle? The closest American analogy is the push for civil rights in the American South in the early 1960s. Many Catholic leaders in Northern Ireland point to civil-rights demonstrations in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia as the turning points in their own embrace of a push for more equity, particularly in jobs and housing. In the 1960s, Catholics faced much discrimination, and brogue-voiced civil-rights marchers demanded a fairer deal. Sometimes they sang U.S. protest songs; “We Shall Overcome” was a particular favorite. But progress came slowly. Entrenched governments, led by Protestant politicians, proved unwilling to embrace dramatic

A young girl talks to a British soldier on patrol in Belfast. Northern Ireland is under British rule. *corbis*





Catholic protesters burn the British Union flag in front of a police riot line in western Belfast in July 2002. *AP*

changes. By the end of the 1960s, nonviolent protest was losing favor in Northern Ireland. Catholic protesters instead were taking up arms and opening fire on British soldiers as well as Protestant guerrillas.

The Upshot. For perhaps 30 years, the dominant images of Northern Ireland have been of armored British military vehicles rolling through bucolic towns, encountering IRA fighters in ski masks tot-

ing Armalite automatic weapons.

“Catholic” and “Protestant” are shorthand. The differences go far beyond theology. “The conflict is religious, political, economic,” says Richard Gruber, an historian at Xavier University in Cincinnati. “The tensions run very deep.” Experts have come to accept that this is no one-dimensional brawl; many points of difference have helped fuel this civil war because so many layers exist, so many places for the two sides to butt heads. “This has been a terribly difficult conflict to unravel,” Gruber says.

The Good News. Northern Ireland’s chance for peace is the best it’s ever been, experts say, due to the hard work of leaders in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and the United States. In 1996, an international panel headed by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell cobbled together a proposal to bring peace to the region, and two years later, the “Good Friday Agreement” was embraced by all major parties. The essence of the agreement involves self-rule for the province, a bigger voice for the mi-

Northern Ireland’s war-torn history

1169 Anglo-Norman, or English, troops land in Ireland and involve themselves in warlord politics. Irish nationalists point to this military presence as the beginning of English influence.

1558-1600 Under Queen Elizabeth I, Protestant Scots are offered large plots of land, expropriated from Catholic farmers, if they relocate to Ireland.

1649 To quell Irish rebellions, British strongman Oliver Cromwell enters Ireland with a sizable army and kills thousands of Catholics.

1800 Passage of the Act of Union officially makes Ireland part of England, which has essentially led Ireland since Cromwell’s bloody march.

1916 A band of Irish rebels stage the Easter Rebellion and attack British forces. Dramatically overmatched, the rebels are easily defeated. But their dream of an Irish republic captures the public imagination and a spirit of revolt flourishes.

1920 After four years of guerrilla warfare, the Government of Ireland Act partitions the island into 26 predominantly Catholic counties in the south and six heavily Protestant counties in the north.

1921 The Anglo-Irish Treaty, signed by Ireland and Britain, acknowledges the independence of the 26 southern counties. As part of the deal, the new Irish government officially recognizes the six northern counties as part of Britain.

1921-1968 Periodic, small outbursts of violence remind all that some Irish Catholics resent the six-county partition. In 1968, a civil-rights movement sweeps Northern Ireland.

1969 Police forces react aggressively to civil-rights demonstrations as violent chaos spreads through the six northern counties. In 1969, Britain sends troops into Northern Ireland to restore order.

1972 On Jan. 30, “Bloody Sunday” erupts in Derry as the Army’s parachute regiment opens fire on civilian demonstrators; 13 die. The “Paras” say they were fired on first. Bloody Sunday triggers days of rioting across the province, including the burning of the British Embassy in Dublin. Relationships among the players reach a low point, and violence threatens Northern Ireland.

1985 The Anglo-Irish Agreement gives the Republic of Ireland a “consultative” role in affairs of the north for the first

time. More broadly, this serves as a potent sign that the British government is willing to work toward peace.

1993 The Downing Street Declaration, signed by British Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, declares that Sinn Féin – the political arm of the IRA – can join ongoing peace talks if the IRA renounces violence.

1996 The IRA, frustrated by what it sees as intolerable delays in sifting through its beefs against the British and the Protestants, ends its cease-fire by detonating a huge bomb at London’s Canary Wharf. Two die.

1997 After intense talks spearheaded by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, the IRA announces a new cease-fire.

1998 In April, the Good Friday Agreement, a peace brokered by Mitchell, is signed by all significant parties. It ushers in a new, more hopeful era in Northern Ireland politics.

2002 On July 16, the Irish Republican Army issued an unprecedented apology for hundreds of civilian deaths during the past 30 years.

— Robert McGarvey

*'Catholic' and
'Protestant' are
shorthand; the
differences go far
beyond theology. 'The
conflict is religious,
political, economic.'*

— Richard Gruber,
historian at Xavier
University in Cincinnati

nority Catholic population and assurances that Northern Ireland will remain part of the United Kingdom.

"National identity is a continuing problem that won't be easy to resolve," Gruber says. The sticking point is that many Catholics want the six counties that form Northern Ireland to be reunited with Ireland's 26 counties to form one nation. The majority of Protestants insist that Northern Ireland must remain part of the United Kingdom.

In spite of these major political differences, both sides shook hands and agreed to get down to the tough work of forming a government. While ghoulis setbacks have occurred — such as the 1998 bombing of the town center of Omagh, an atrocity that claimed 28 lives — steady progress has been made toward lasting peace. The biggest plus, and the reason for widespread optimism, is that the two sides have continued to talk even in the midst of horrific violence.

Will this peace last? Most experts think either side has nowhere to go except toward peace. "There now is genuine hope a resolution can be reached," Rogers says. Progress has been profound, but it's up to both sides to keep moving forward toward a peace that will endure for all. □

Robert McGarvey is a freelance writer living in Oro Valley, Ariz. He has traveled to Ireland 10 times in the past dozen years.

Article design: Doug Rollison

In Pursuit of Peace

The Good Friday Agreement remains Northern Ireland's best hope for peace.

BY GEORGE J.
MITCHELL

The Bill of Rights is the most concise and eloquent statement ever written on the rights of individuals to be free from governmental oppression. That's one side of the coin of liberty. The other is the need for everyone to have a fair chance to enjoy the blessings of liberty. People without jobs or without adequate education or child care don't think much about liberty; they worry about coping day to day.

The same is true of people living in a society torn by violence. Without civil order and physical security, freedom and justice are concepts unrelated to the daily task of survival. So it was for many years in Northern Ireland. Violence and fear settled over that beautiful land like a heavy, unyielding fog. The conflict hurt the economy, resulting in escalating unemployment rates.

After a half century of intermittent cooperation, the British and Irish governments concluded that to end the conflict, they would have to sustain cooperation.

After years of effort and despite many setbacks, Britain and Ireland were able to enter peace negotiations in June 1996. The prime ministers of both countries invited me to serve as chairman. I had been involved in Northern Ireland long enough to realize what a daunting task it was.

The negotiations — the longest, most difficult I've ever been involved with — lasted 22 months. For a year and a half, no progress seemed possible. The early months of 1998 were an especially dangerous time. Men of violence on both sides tried to destroy the process with a sharp increase in sectarian killings.

Finally, in late afternoon on Good Friday, we reached an agreement. Although it was an historic step, the agreement did not, by itself, guarantee a durable peace, political stability or reconciliation. It



Former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, left, is welcomed by Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern at Dublin Airport in November 1999. Mitchell previously served as a peace mediator in Northern Ireland. *Corbis*

merely made these ideals possible.

I believe the agreement will endure because it's fair and balanced. It requires the use of exclusively democratic, peaceful means to resolve differences, and it commits all parties to the total disarmament of paramilitary organizations. It stresses the need for mutual respect and tolerance between communities. It's based on the principle that the future of Northern Ireland should be decided by the people of Northern Ireland. It includes constitutional change in Ireland and in the United Kingdom. It creates new democratic institutions to provide self-governance in Northern Ireland and to encourage cooperation between the north and south for their mutual benefit. It explicitly repudiates the use or threat of violence for any political purpose.

On May 22, 1998, in the first democratic all-island vote in 80 years, 71 percent of northern voters and 95 percent of southern voters endorsed the agreement.

In the four years since, the people of Ireland have experienced many ups and downs. Right now, prospects are good. Commerce, tourism and economic growth are up. The murder rate is down. The local government is functioning well, but pitfalls remain. Genuine reconciliation is a long way in the future. Some individuals on both sides are still committed to violence and opposed to the peace process. The United States must continue to support and encourage both sides to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation.

I've often been asked what lessons Northern Ireland holds for other conflicts. Al-

though each situation is unique, some of what I experienced in Northern Ireland may apply elsewhere.

First, I believe there's no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. Since they're created and sustained by human beings, they can be ended by human beings. No matter how ancient the conflict, peace can prevail.

When I arrived in Northern Ireland, I found a widespread feeling of pessimism among the public and the political leaders. Reversing such attitudes is the special responsibility of political leaders. They must create an attitude of success, the belief that problems can be solved and that things can be better – not in a foolish or unre-

alistic way but in a way that creates hope and confidence.

A second need is for a clear, determined policy that won't yield to violence. Even during the euphoria that followed the agreement, horrific acts of violence occurred. In July 1998, three young boys were burned to death as they slept. A month later, a devastating bomb in Omagh killed 29 people and injured 300. These were acts of ignorance and hatred and must be condemned. But to succumb to the temptation to retaliate would give the criminals what they want: escalating sectarian violence and the end of the peace process. Responding swiftly and judiciously to acts of violence by bringing those involved to justice is essential to keeping peace in Ireland.

A third need is the willingness to compromise. Peace and political stability cannot be achieved in sharply divided societies unless both sides exercise understanding and compromise.

The people of Northern Ireland have made mistakes, but they're learning from them – learning that violence won't solve their problems; that unionists and nationalists have more in common than they have differences; and that knowledge of their history is a good thing but being chained to the past is not.

Setbacks will occur along the way, but the direction for Northern Ireland was set when, in a democratic vote, the Good Friday Agreement was approved. The people are sick of war. They want peace, and I hope they will keep it. □

George Mitchell, a Democrat from Maine, is a former U.S. Senate Majority Leader.



An armed Royal Ulster Constabulary officer in full riot gear chats with an unidentified Catholic youngster as he escorts him through a Protestant section of the Ardoyne area of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in October 2001. The child, along with other children and their mothers, was on his way to Holy Cross Boys School the day after the IRA announced they were to begin decommissioning their weapons. AP

Lord, Bless This Sailor



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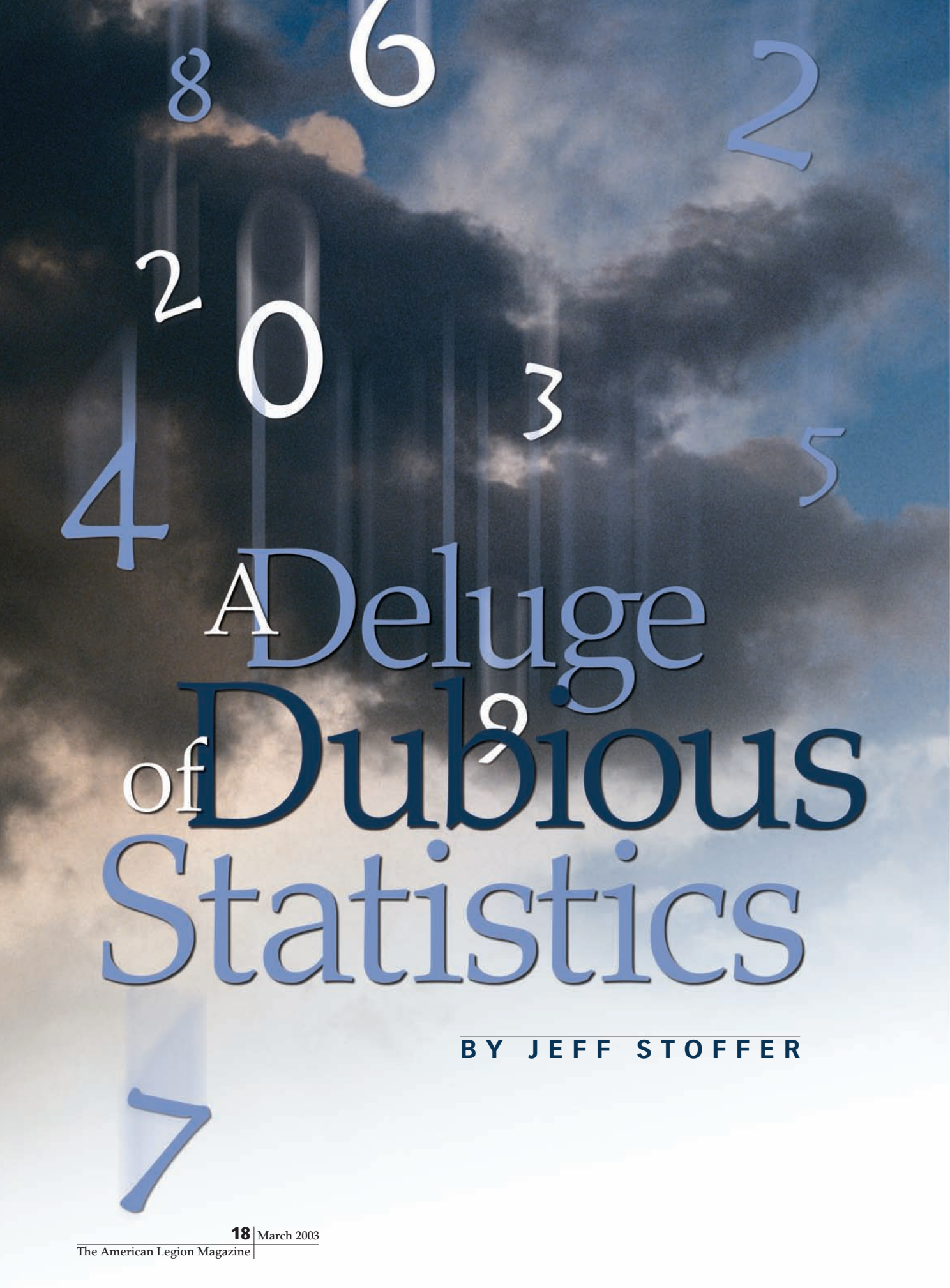
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A Deluge of Dubious Statistics

BY JEFF STOFFER

Before entering a discussion of how to ward off all the dubious social statistics that swarm through public airspace every day, consider last year's dispute in Washington over a big set of numbers particularly troubling to American veterans: VA's backlog of pending claims.

Last October, Rep. Lane Evans of Illinois, ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, issued a statement criticizing the Bush administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs for "releasing inaccurate numbers" about the backlog. Evans expressed concern that "by using erroneous information ... VA had tried to claim a large reduction in the number of claims pending." By Evans' calculations, the backlog had not been reduced since the new administration took over in January 2001. Instead, he said, it had grown slightly.

The statement appeared in response to news reports that credited VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi as saying the department had slashed the backlog from a high of 650,000 when he took office down to 394,000 last summer. An Associated Press article filed Aug. 14, 2002, began with the following sentence: "When Anthony Principi was confirmed as the Veterans Affairs Secretary... he says there were more than 650,000 benefits claims pending."

Evans complained that VA's own Web site showed the backlog was 402,775 when the secretary took the reins at VA, and the number peaked at around 600,000 several months later, before dropping to slightly below 470,000 at the time Principi said it was 394,000.

It was a confusing dispute, one that was highly unlikely to replace serial snipers or nuclear weapons inspections on any newspaper's front page.

But it did beg the question: How could Evans and Principi, two of the nation's top officials in veterans affairs, differ by nearly 250,000 when measuring the same population and one of the most serious problems facing VA today?

Was it creative math? If you

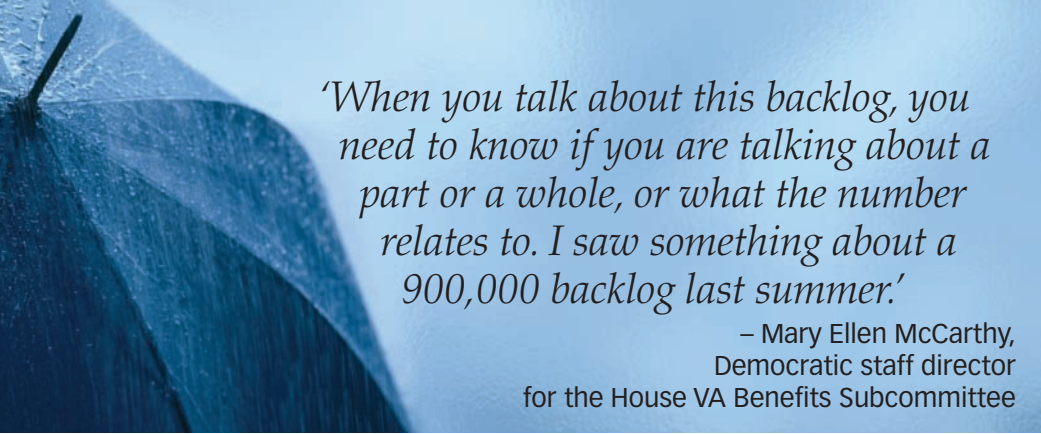
take all the pending claims with disability ratings, add in those without ratings, plus undecided education claims, appeals and new arrivals, the backlog may well have passed 650,000 during the secretary's first year, creating a basis for the high-end figure. The 394,000 figure, meanwhile, appeared to be based only on those cases involving disabilities ratings. The comparison was was possibly drawn between a liberal whole on the high side and a conservative part on the low side.

Was it political spin? As last fall's critical congressional races drew near, a dramatic reduction of the VA backlog under the leadership of a Republican appointee certainly could not hurt GOP candidates seeking votes from veterans. Evans' office, meanwhile, controlled its outrage until Oct. 18 to deliver a counter-punch over figures quoted in the press two months earlier. Timing is everything.

Was it a difference of definitions? The term "VA backlog" has been used interchangeably to describe most any form of flotsam or jetsam that keeps America's second-largest government agency from operating efficiently. VA has a pending-claims backlog (with and without disability ratings), an appeals backlog, a remanded-appeals backlog, a backlog of patients waiting six months or longer for primary care and a backlog of veterans whose appointments have been rescheduled for later dates. If you type in "VA" and "backlog" on the search engine Yahoo you get 18,200 hits.

Was it a media misunderstanding? Let's face it. The VA backlog is a population few who breathe outdoor air can readily understand. The 650,000 figure bounced around Washington and through the media as a symbolic measure of magnitude. Such figures, in the Internet era of journalism, often tumble

The key to understanding our world – from the VA backlog to species extinction rates – often depends on our ability to understand the subjective ways of numbers.



'When you talk about this backlog, you need to know if you are talking about a part or a whole, or what the number relates to. I saw something about a 900,000 backlog last summer.'

– Mary Ellen McCarthy,
Democratic staff director
for the House VA Benefits Subcommittee

9,960 criminal homicides ... in the country). In 1970, the number would have passed 1 million; in 1980, 1 billion (more than four times the total U.S. population at the time). Another milestone would have been passed in 1987, when the number of gunned-down children – 137 billion – would have

from one news story to the next. It was referenced in a November 2001 press release from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that railed about federal budget priorities and pork projects. The 600,000 figure – which Evans says was the peak that hit in March 2002 – dominated the mainstream media's annual Memorial Day visit of veterans' issues last May. But by late summer, the 650,000 figure re-emerged in newspaper articles and speeches.

"The number got into the press and propagated," says Mary Ellen McCarthy, Democratic staff director for the House VA Benefits Subcommittee. "When you talk about this backlog, you need to know if you are talking about a part or a whole, or what the number relates to. I saw something about a 900,000 backlog last summer. We need to not take everything at face value."

Was it all of the above? Most likely. The 650,000 VA-backlog figure was a classic example of a statistic run amok – where a little creative math, a dash of politics, a few definition discrepancies and a dollop of media confusion can combine to brew up a big batch of number soup.

In an interview with *The American Legion Magazine* in December, Principi stood by the 650,000 figure.

That's the problem of oft-quoted social statistics – of skewed percentages, opinionated polls, unscientific surveys, estimates, guesstimates, ballpark figures, trends and trivia. Some of it is reliable. Most of it contains at least a little fudge factor. Some is outright prevarication. But in a nation where the public's appetite for numbers is often only matched by its limited understanding of their

ways, rarely do we so much as challenge the math of those who seek to persuade us. And we almost never ask them – as all good math teachers do – to show us their work.

Zoning Out. University of Delaware sociologist Joel Best told *The American Legion Magazine* that many of us pick up the statistics addiction as schoolchildren. "I think it goes back to third grade. You have a unit called 'fact and opinion.' Most of us come out of that believing that if there's a number in a sentence, it's fact, and anything else is opinion."

With or without a deliberate intent to hoodwink, dubious statistics can produce some embarrassing moments.

As a nationally known debunker of statistical myths, Best has encountered dozens of doozies, including one he calls the "worst social statistic ever," which came from a graduate student pitching a doctoral research project. As a member of the dissertation committee, Best was alarmed when the student stated in his presentation that "every year since 1950, the number of American children gunned down has doubled."

"What makes this statistic so bad?" Best pondered in his 2001 book *"Damned Lies and Statistics: Untangling Numbers from the Media, Politicians and Activists."* "Just for the sake of argument, let's assume that the 'number of children gunned down' in 1950 was one. If the number doubled each year, there must have been two children gunned down in 1951, four in 1952, eight in 1953, and so on. By 1960, the number would have been 1,024. By 1965, it would have been 32,768 (in 1965, the FBI identified only

surpassed the best estimates for the total human population throughout history (110 billion). By 1995, when the article was published, the annual number of victims would have been over 35 trillion – a really big number, of a magnitude you rarely encounter outside economics or astronomy."

The graduate student had quoted the dubious statistic verbatim from a reputable professional journal. Best contacted the author of the article and discovered that he had misquoted data from the Children's Defense Fund that actually reported in 1994 "the number of children killed each year by guns has doubled since 1950." While that's a much more believable claim, its statistical significance is pretty mild, Best says, because the U.S. population increased by 73 percent between 1950 and 1994. "We might expect all sorts of things ... to increase, to nearly double, just because the population grew."

Everything sounds more important with a statistical reference. Numbers are essential ingredients "in the recipe we use to create social problems," Best says. "The first part, you find an absolutely awful example. The second part, you give a name to it. The third part, you offer up a number, and usually, it's a big number ... There is a lot of competition for attention. Oprah is only going to do one topic a day."

How Bad Is It Really? "Bad statistics come from conservatives on the political right and liberals on the left, from wealthy corporations and powerful government agencies, and from advocates of the poor and the powerless ..." Best writes. "Yet, at the same time, we need statistics; we depend upon

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them to summarize and clarify the nature of our complex society. This is particularly true when we talk about social problems.”

In 1995, President Clinton gave a radio address on the seriousness of domestic abuse. And while one case of domestic violence is one too many, among the statistical claims Clinton made in the address were: every 12 seconds another woman is beaten, victims number 900,000 a year, and domestic violence was the No. 1 health risk for women ages 15 to 44.

Aside from the fact that a beating every 12 seconds would eclipse 2.5 million victims a year – about 1 million above the total of all violent incidents a year in America – the 900,000 figure was woefully outdated and, in fact, showed a substantial decline from recent years. Also, the claim that domestic violence was the No. 1 health risk for women 15 to 44 was based on one study at one emergency room, and the Centers for Disease Control, which had been cited as the source, denied having made the claim and advised journalists that it was not accurate.

The White House later retracted the statement.

In “The Skeptical Environmentalist,” author Bjorn Lomborg argues that activists use statistics to lead the public to believe the world is spiraling toward certain armageddon. However, he says, their claims often lack verifiable evidence.

Take species extinction. Stanford University professor Paul Ehrlich, oft-quoted author of more than 30 books on population explosion, predicted more than 20 years ago that half the world’s species would be gone by 2000, and we could all be dead by 2025. In 1981, he said 250,000 species a year might be disappearing. Lomborg says more reliable data suggest we are losing less than 1 percent of the world’s species every 50 years.

Lomborg also notes that statements of rapidly disappearing world forests do not match

a long-term series of U.N. studies that show “global forest cover has increased from 30.04 percent in 1950 to 30.89 percent in 1994.” Similar claims about the condition of the world – that hunger is increasing, acid rain is killing our forests, and the human population is growing at record rates – are often examples of unfounded, overblown or mutant statistics.

“Speaking of record rates of population growth ...” Lomborg writes, “... the record was set back in 1964 at 2.17 percent. Since that record, the rate has been steadily declining, standing at 1.26 percent in 2000 and is expected to drop below 1 percent in 2016.”

The big problem with dubious statistical claims is that their lack of integrity does not keep them from finding a place on the public agenda. “Constant repetition and ... often-heard exaggerations have serious consequences,” Lomborg writes. “It makes us scared, and it makes us more likely to spend our resources and attention solv-

ing phantom problems while ignoring real and pressing issues.”

Under its “Stupid Statistics” link, the Web site Clothmonkey.com puts it this way: “People have a tendency to believe statistics without question, no matter how stupid they may seem if one took a moment to reflect on them. And there are stupid statistics out there, lots of them. A lot of this kind of data comes these days from interest groups with a vested interest in the outcome ... mostly folks angling to get some money out of the federal government for some purpose or another.”

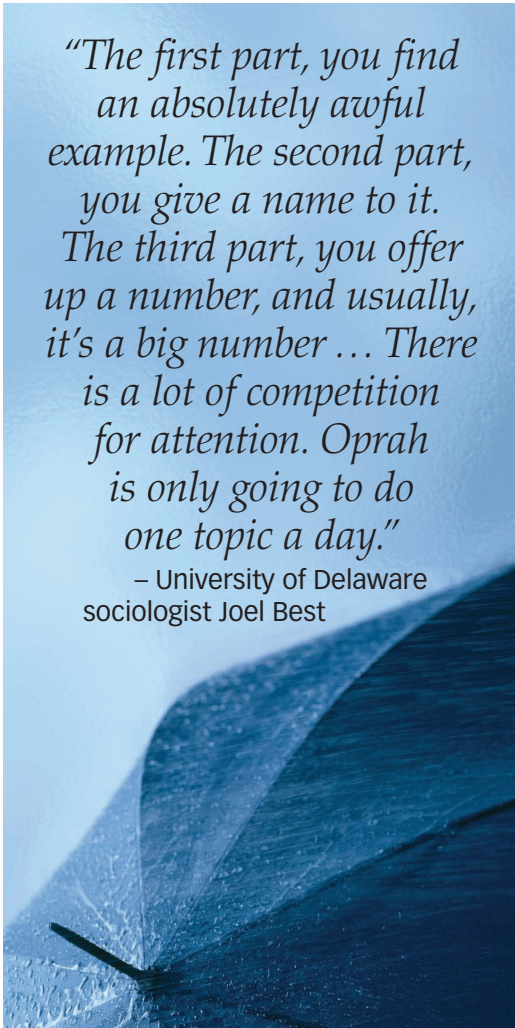
That Web site lists some pretty good examples of dubious statistical claims that made it into the mainstream media. Among them: that 100,000 dogs are killed each year (11 dogs an hour) by falling out of pickup trucks; that Exxon in 1979 had a 100-percent profit – \$2 made for every \$1 spent (a widely publicized typo; it was really a 6.7-percent profit); and that 12 children a day die of gunshots

in America (in 1998, according to the Centers for Disease Control, the total number of children who died from gunshots was 526 – less than two a day – about half of which were accidental).

Homelessness numbers make a popular target for statistical myth-busters. This stems from the often-uttered range of 2 million to 3 million – what Best would define as the “dark figure” – that was bandied about during the 1980s.

Best writes, “When ‘Nightline’s’ Ted Koppel asked Mitch Snyder, a leading activist for the homeless in the 1980s, for the source of an estimate that there were 2 million to 3 million homeless persons, Snyder explained: ‘Everybody demanded it. Everybody said we want a number. We got on the phone, we made a lot of calls, we talked to a lot of people, and we said, OK, here are some numbers. They have no meaning, no value.’”

This happens because it works. Consumers of informa-



“The first part, you find an absolutely awful example. The second part, you give a name to it. The third part, you offer up a number, and usually, it’s a big number ... There is a lot of competition for attention. Oprah is only going to do one topic a day.”

– University of Delaware sociologist Joel Best



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tion rarely peel back the numbers they see or hear to look what – or who – is underneath them.

“When dealing with statistical information, a lot of people zone out,” McCarthy says. “When you see numbers, you really need to look at the basis, the sources, the different databases that come up with different figures.”

Wheat from Chaff. The public’s best defense against dubious statistics, Best says, is a critical mind.

“What I try to tell people is to think of them as jewels,” Best says. “Somebody has to select them, polish them and display them. Every number we encounter is a number that somebody had to produce. Somebody had to count it. The question then becomes, who counted it? Why did they count it? And what were the (techniques used to count it)? We are very vulnerable to being misled.”

Best and others who study the issue of dubious information say the public should be skeptical of:

■ **Big, round numbers.** Social problems that end in multiple zeros – 3 million homeless, 100,000 dead dogs, a 650,000 backlog – can be a sign of liberal rounding, careless counting or even guesswork.

■ **Comparison studies.** According to the authors of “It Ain’t Necessarily So: How Media Make and Unmake The Scientific Picture of Reality,” epidemiology – which looks for risk factors by comparing populations – is often misinterpreted in the media. For instance, they point out a study that showed coffee drinking might prevent Parkinson’s disease. Another study showed that the use of bug spray may be a cause of Parkinson’s. “If one sprayed the aspidistras while holding an open Starbucks mocha grande, would he or she come out even?” the book jibes. Best says comparison

studies are usually reliable only in big collections, such as those that have been conducted to show the association between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. A 25-percent increase in the incidence of one disease or another sounds pretty astonishing, Best says, until you discover the jump was from four cases per 100,000 to five cases per 100,000.

■ **Unimaginable connections.**

If you see a claim on topics like the increase of gay teen suicides or dogs falling to their deaths out of pickup trucks, ask yourself, “How did they count that?”

“There is nothing about sexual orientation on a death certificate,” Best says. “It ought to be possible to imagine how something can be counted.”

■ **Biased sources.** People or

organizations who express statistics that advance special interests may have vested reasons for delivering dubious data. In “It Ain’t Necessarily So,” David Murray, Joel Schwartz and S. Robert Lichter tell of two medical researchers who publicized the positive results of their new cancer treatment, which they had licensed with a biotechnology company of which both stockholders. By the time their questionable findings were questioned, the company’s stock had soared 67 percent.

■ **Random surveys.** Surveys and opinion polls are rarely accurate or representative because they tend to only capture the feelings of people who are home and willing to talk at the time the surveyor calls. “It’s getting worse,” Best says of telephone surveys. “You have more and more people with caller ID. They don’t answer the phone if they don’t know who is calling. The only thing worse is an Internet survey.”

■ **Lack of details.** Details like question wording, number of peo-

ple asked and geographic locations of respondents are rarely publicized with survey results.

“When you talk to professionals about this, they have all kinds of rules and precautions,” Best says. “If you are trying to do this well, you pre-test your survey to make sure the responses aren’t skewed.”

Most important, Best says, trust your judgment. “If you have a reaction of ‘Wow, is that possible?’ – usually it’s not.”

Veterans Are Not Numbers. The American Legion is now cutting through the statistical fog to shed light on veterans who have been waiting six months or longer for primary-care appointments at VA health-care facilities. Last August, that group tallied more than 300,000, according to VA. That group became one of VA’s infamous backlogs – not as big as the pending-claims backlog, much larger than the remanded appeals group.

They are all connected.

They are human beings waiting to see doctors. Some of them are sick and disabled. They are not numbers. And yet, so much of the attention about their problems focuses on the measurement of their population, which no one agrees upon.

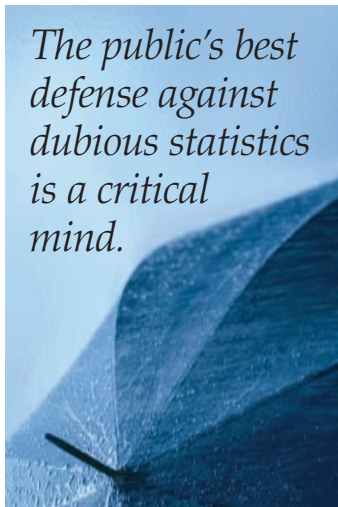
The point of The American Legion’s “I Am Not a Number” campaign is that these backlogs are not impersonal statistical aberrations to be twisted and molded to meet the day’s political interests. This is about real people who are frustrated their lagging health care has been reduced to numbers in a bureaucratic debate.

For those who care deeply about social problems with big numbers attached – the way those numbers are measured, treated and used to shift public opinion – perhaps it’s best to adopt the philosophy American Legion National Commander Ronald F. Conley has on the backlog: when veterans do not get the service they should receive, one is too many. □

Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

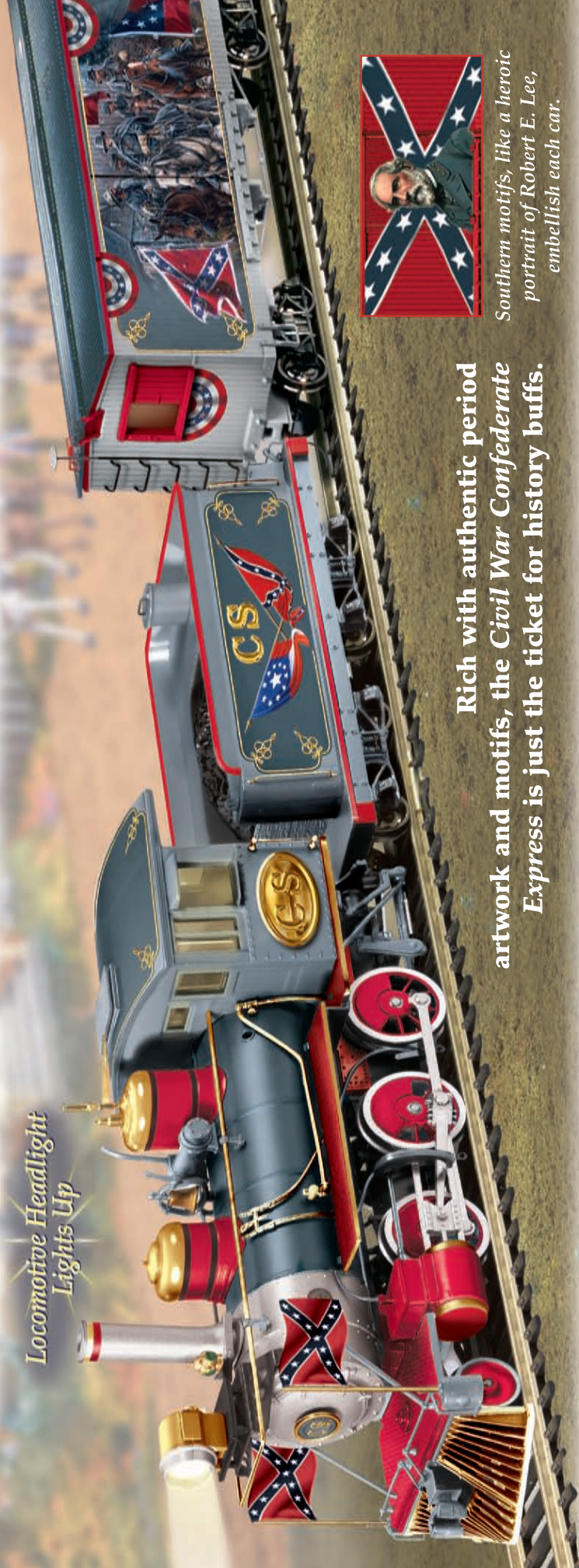
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A LEGACY OF Broken Promises

BY JONATHAN TURLEY

It may be one of the cruelest cases of bait-and-switch in history. At issue is a promise by the government to World War II and Korean War veterans that their health-care benefits would be guaranteed for life. Now that the bill has come due, the government has reneged and said it is not legally bound to make good on its promise. One of these veterans is Robert Reinlie, who flew more than 30 missions in a B-17 bomber over Europe during World War II. He flew through walls of German flak and anti-aircraft fire to survive one of the war's most hazardous duties. Now, at 81, he is fighting his own government in court. This time he is losing.


A federal court of appeals in Washington ruled recently that although a promise was made by the government, it was a promise that could legally be broken. The court ruled that the loss was significant for these veterans and that the breach of the promise was shocking. Yet it could not force the government to act morally.

This controversy began near the end of World War II, when the military was struggling to keep veterans in its ranks. A war against the Soviet Union was viewed as almost inevitable, and the government needed veterans like Reinlie. So it made a promise: if military personnel would serve at least 20 years, they would receive free lifetime medical care for


themselves and their dependents. Tens of thousands of veterans responded and soon found themselves fighting in Korea against waves of Chinese soldiers. They had made a promise to serve, and this was a generation that was taught to keep a promise – even at the cost of one's life. The government has never denied it made this promise.

However, in 1995 the Clinton administration was looking for things to cut out of a budget to fund greater priorities, like politically popular subsidies and transportation projects. Government lawyers soon realized that, even though a promise was made, the only thing preventing Washington from reneging was a moral commitment. In our government, this made it an easy decision. The government informed all veterans older than 65 – by definition all of the World War II and Korea veterans – that they would have to seek medical care from Medicare. Though they could request free care from military hospitals, they were given the lowest priority for such care and usually were turned away because of the downsizing of military facilities. As a result, most had to purchase supplemental policies, which could cost hundreds of dollars a month.

Many of these veterans, almost all in their 80s and 90s, cannot afford the additional cost for the health care they were promised would be covered. While fighting the veterans in court, the Clinton



*Veterans
are placed
at the front of
the parade
but the bottom
of the budget.*



and Bush administrations secured billions of dollars in pork-barrel projects, special-interests breaks and subsidies from a willing Congress – a Congress that recently appointed a committee to expand its own taxpayer-funded health-club and recreation facilities. Many members of Congress apparently believe the Battle of the Bulge refers to their own selfless struggle against unsightly weight gain.



Masterfile/Elizabeth Knox

The hypocrisy of our government was never clearer than last Veterans Day. While these politicians were using World War II veterans as human props, government lawyers were in court stripping them of their benefits. While officials waxed poetic about the “debt that we owe and can never repay” this greatest generation, the administration was busy contesting any legal obligation to pay at all.

Ironically, Washington had to rush to guarantee an insulting end to the lives of those who gave so much to so many. World War II veterans are dying at the rate of 1,200 a day. In some ways, the government is acting consistently with its past. In 1932, more than 20,000 veterans of World War I camped out in Washington demanding promised bonuses from Congress. The government

Many of these veterans, almost all in their 80s and 90s, cannot afford the additional cost for health care they were promised would be covered. While fighting the veterans in court, the Clinton and Bush administrations secured billions of dollars in pork-barrel projects, special-interests breaks and subsidies.

sent in tanks under the command of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who viciously attacked with heavily armed troops and burned their makeshift camp to the ground. Now our politicians are busy sending off a new generation of young Americans to fight in our name. We have promised them much, and politicians have again professed undying support for them and their families. Meanwhile, the government is quickly trying to dispatch one generation of veterans before the first of the new generation of wounded come home. Of course, the dwindling number of World War II veterans still will be sought out by these same politicians for photo ops every Veterans Day and pushed to the front of the parade.

They just have to watch their step; if they trip and break a hip, they are on their own. □

Jonathan Turley is a law professor at George Washington University.

Article design: Holly K. Soria



Time *for a* Change

*It may not be too late for your **dream job.***

BY DENNIS McCAFFERTY

Joe Vincere could only think, “What am I doing here?” After a quarter-century on the beat with the Rockford, Ill., Police Department, was he actually going to try to learn how to be a chef at some fancy cooking school in New York? A guy who chased down gang members for a living was now going to make lemon mousse tarts to pay the bills? A narcotics detective who, on the midnight shift, washed down cold pizza with warm soda, was going whip up moscato wine-braised veal dishes for the platinum-card crowd? These were the questions that swirled through his head.

Vincere had already once driven his old Chevy pickup to the famed Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., in 1996. That’s when the doubts kicked in. “I sat there for 10 minutes in my truck,” says Vincere, a 56-year-old Vietnam War veteran. “I started thinking about overcoming the stigma of being ‘the old guy’ — the guy taking classes with all of these puppies, all of these young kids in a dorm. You know what? I almost took my truck, turned it around and went back home. But I didn’t. I convinced myself to overcome my fears, to fulfill my

desire to do something else. I convinced myself that I had it all over these kids. There wasn’t a trick in the book that they could pull on me that I didn’t know already.”

Vincere got out of the truck and went to school.

In the six years since, he’s not only survived — he’s thrived. After graduation, he went on to serve as manager for the institute’s four on-campus restaurants. He’s now recruiting for the school and fulfilling speaking engagements about its work. He’s traveled to Sicilian villages to discover how to make old-country fresh fish and lamb and anchovy and pepper dishes. “That’s when I realized, ‘This is the way God meant food to be,’” Vincere says.

In a larger sense, it’s about more than good food. Vincere has taken the risky leap that many contemplate in mid-career: a complete change in professions. Not a logical switch from one job to another within the same field but a total vocational overhaul. Vincere and thousands of other successful people are checking out of their life’s work only to explore and succeed in something entirely new.

They are taking the “road less traveled by,” as poet Robert Frost wrote — but one that represents an emerging percentage of the

‘I convinced myself to overcome my fears, to fulfill my desire to do something else. I convinced myself that I had it all over these kids. There wasn’t a trick in the book that they could pull on me that I didn’t know already.’

— Joe Vincere, 56-year-old former police officer, now a chef

American work culture. In a recently released survey of 1,500 workers older than 45, the AARP (formerly known as the American Association of Retired Persons) reports that 6 percent of respondents older than 45 eventually intend to work full-time in an entirely new career.

More Than Money. “I’m expressing how I feel,” explains 41-year-old Naomi Weinberg of River Vale, N.J. She left a career as a civil-litigation attorney and now teaches art to elementary schoolchildren

and creates watercolor paintings and licenses them for reproductions as greeting cards. "There are a lot of restrictions as an attorney with respect to expressing how

you personally feel. You represent your clients' point of view all day. Now I represent my point of view. And I'm working the hours that I want. It's a different lifestyle and a life choice."

This professional migration signifies a sweep-

ing change in attitudes from the 1950s to the 21st century. The company man has vanished in the dust stirred by a dizzying array of corporate mergers, layoffs, aggressive headhunters, antsy employees and New Economy MOs. The 1990s boom told America that change was good. Then the post-2000 bust stepped in to say, oh yeah, change can be pretty nasty, too — so you better prepare for it either way.

"There was always the assumption in the 1950s and 1960s that you did one thing and, if you were good at it, you stuck to it," says Margaret Lobenstine, owner of Alternative Approaches (www.togetunstuck.com), a Belchertown, Mass.-based firm that counsels professionals on career transitions.

"But that's no longer the mindset. In a way, it recalls an earlier tradition. Look at Ben Franklin. If he did his work in American politics, he'd be pinned down at the JFK School of Government. But then he had the kite and the key routine down, so he'd want to try MIT, too."

But all kinds of circumstances can serve as challenges. As a result, many questions must be asked before taking the plunge: Can I get by with less money? Am I willing to leave a position of high standing to go back to the bottom of the ladder? Do I need to go back to school? Is my family supportive? How do I know that I'm even going to like the new job? Could it be that I'm only looking for an escape — any escape?

Getting Your Feet Wet. Herminia Ibarra, an organizational behavior professor at an international business school in France and author of the upcoming "Working Identity: Unconventional Strategies for Reinventing Your Career," (Harvard Business School Press), has spent the past 15 years studying career transitions. She has profiled, among others, a literature professor-turned-stockbroker and a psychiatrist-turned-Buddhist monk. She's found that most successful switches do not occur after leaving a previous career cold turkey. Successful career converts often found ways to try out their

Famous Changes

Second careers often turn out to be greater successes than first careers. Take, for example:

Fast-Food Titans

Col. Harland Sanders didn't franchise his chicken business until he was 65. A worker since age 10, he conducted streetcars in New Albany, Ind., and went on to serve as a railroad fireman, insurance salesman and steamboat ferry operator, among other jobs. He ran a service station and would serve customers food on the dining table in his living quarters at the station. As people kept coming back, he opened a restaurant that ultimately seated 142. Eventually, he went into franchising, and, by 1964, he had more than 600 locations for his Kentucky Fried Chicken, which went public in March 1966 and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in January 1969.

Ray Kroc sold paper cups before investing his life savings to become the exclusive distributor of a five-spindled milkshake maker, the Multimixer. At age 52, the Multimixer demonstrated to Kroc that many people could be served quickly — a concept that sparked his McDonald's franchises.

Big Ambitions, Bright Lights

After receiving his law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1967, **Fred Thompson** served as minority counsel to the Senate Watergate Committee from 1973 to 1974. In 1977, he exposed a massive, statewide cash-for-clemency scheme in Tennessee. This case inspired the film "Marie," and Thompson played himself in the movie. The acting bug bit, and he went on to appear in 18 motion pictures, including "In the Line of Fire" and "The Hunt for Red October." In 1994, it was back to Washington. Thompson was elected to the Senate and served on the influential Senate Committee on Finance. In 1997, he was elected chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs. He recently retired from politics and is playing District Attorney Arthur Branch on NBC's "Law and Order." He has a sense of humor about his career changes. After Washington, he said in a speech that he was leaving politics because "I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood."

Herb Ritts studied economics and worked as a furniture sales rep, the line of work that took him to movie sets in Hollywood. At the same time, he taught himself photography and changed careers, landing at *Interview* magazine in 1985. He's now considered a glitz-industry icon, having photographed stars for *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *Rolling Stone*, as well as album covers and music videos for Madonna, Elton John and Cher.

— D.M.



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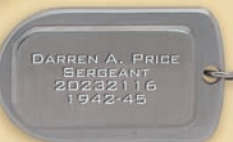
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new jobs before abandoning the old ones entirely. Vincere, for example, did just that. In researching culinary schools, he was told he'd have to work at a restaurant before applying. So he worked in his off

hours at an Italian place. "You talk about no time to yourself at all," he recalls. "If I wasn't working for the police force, I was in the kitchen. But I just knew inside that it

would

work out. I knew I belonged there."

Vincere went about his second career the right way by getting his feet wet first, Ibarra says. "These are people who found their new careers through trial and error," she says. "There are ways to do this while still maintaining your current job. You can take on contract work on the side. You can moonlight at another job after work hours. You can find a friend in the field and arrange to spend time with that friend on the job. You can volunteer, for example, if the new career is at a nonprofit. The main point is you can't conduct a realistic self-inventory by reading a book. Go out and try it. That's the only way to find out that this is not a fantasy, but a real option in your life."

But it's also often a real-life change. You have to consider going without the good life while building up your second career. Luxury items like that upgraded car or entertainment system must wait.

"I always warn people: 'What are you willing to give up?'" says RoseAnn Pastor, vice president of First Transitions, a career-counseling firm in suburban Chicago. "There are instances where we have executives go from having a nice house in the suburbs to a smaller home, to doing without fancy din-

ners out every night. They want a simpler life, a more balanced life. But doing that means cutting out some things that people really want."

The Cost of a Calling. Don Cloutier, 57, a Navy veteran who served in Europe from 1965 to 1969, made considerable financial sacrifices. He owned a successful restaurant and bakery in Shelbourne Falls, Mass., throughout the 1980s, but concluded that he wanted to do more with his life than make a

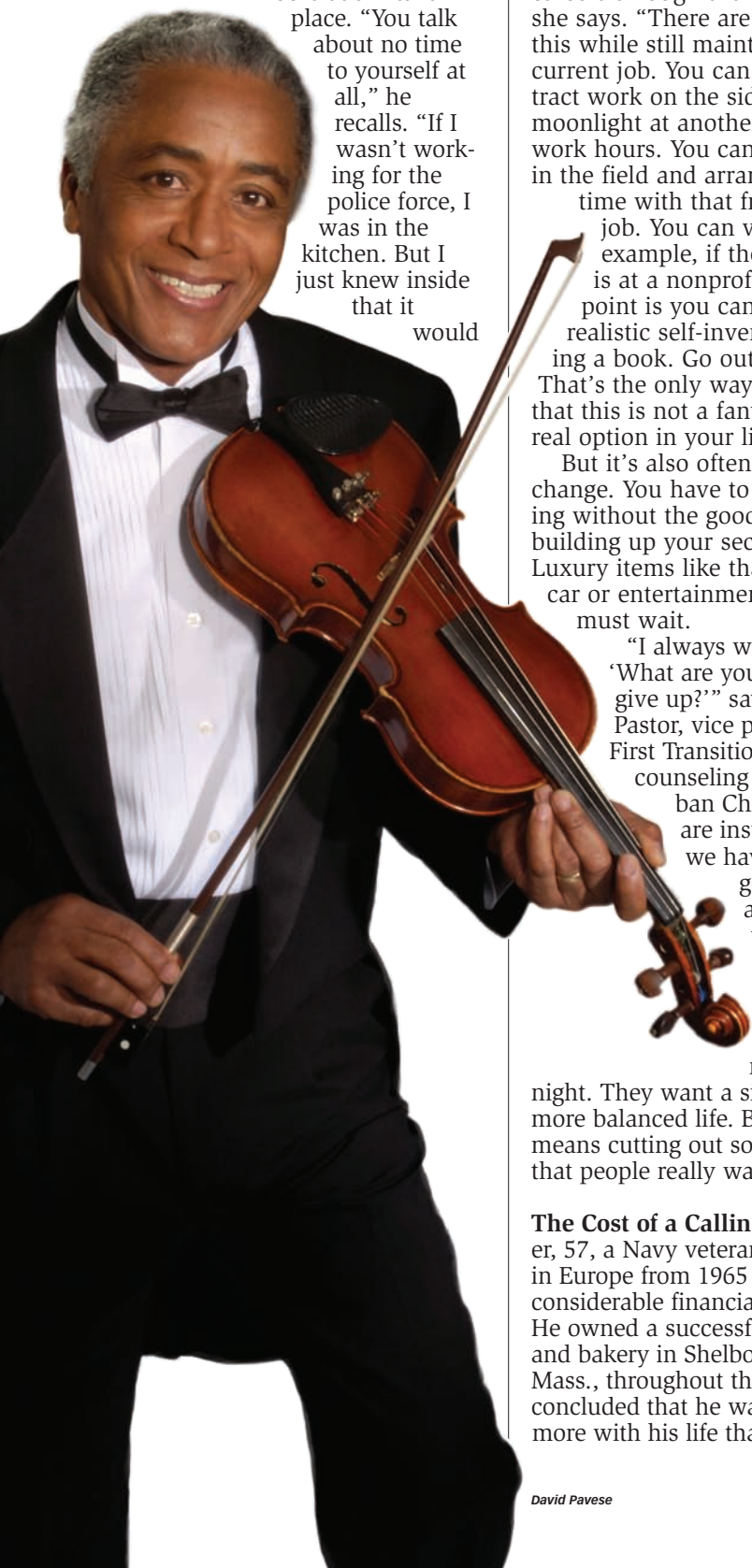
comfortable living. At the restaurant, he often hired troubled teens. Cloutier caught one young man stealing a dozen steaks from his premises. But instead of firing the employee, Cloutier got inspired. He gave the teen a deal: he could keep his job if he used the opportunity to improve himself. Slowly, change took hold, and the young man entered a junior college. He graduated, then went on to attend the University of Massachusetts.

This and other experiences convinced Cloutier that he could do more. He knew he loved two things: dealing with young people and being in the outdoors. Eventually, he landed with an outdoor leadership program for troubled teens in Greenfield, Mass., where mentors and youths work together in a wilderness environment to cultivate team survival skills.

Today, Cloutier owns such a camp program in Canaan, Maine. "I'm a lot happier now than when I was making more money," says Cloutier, who made more than \$100,000 a year with his restaurant and took positions for as low as \$21,000 annually in social services. "I really get to talk to people now and make a difference in their lives, and that's important to me. I enjoy getting up every morning now."

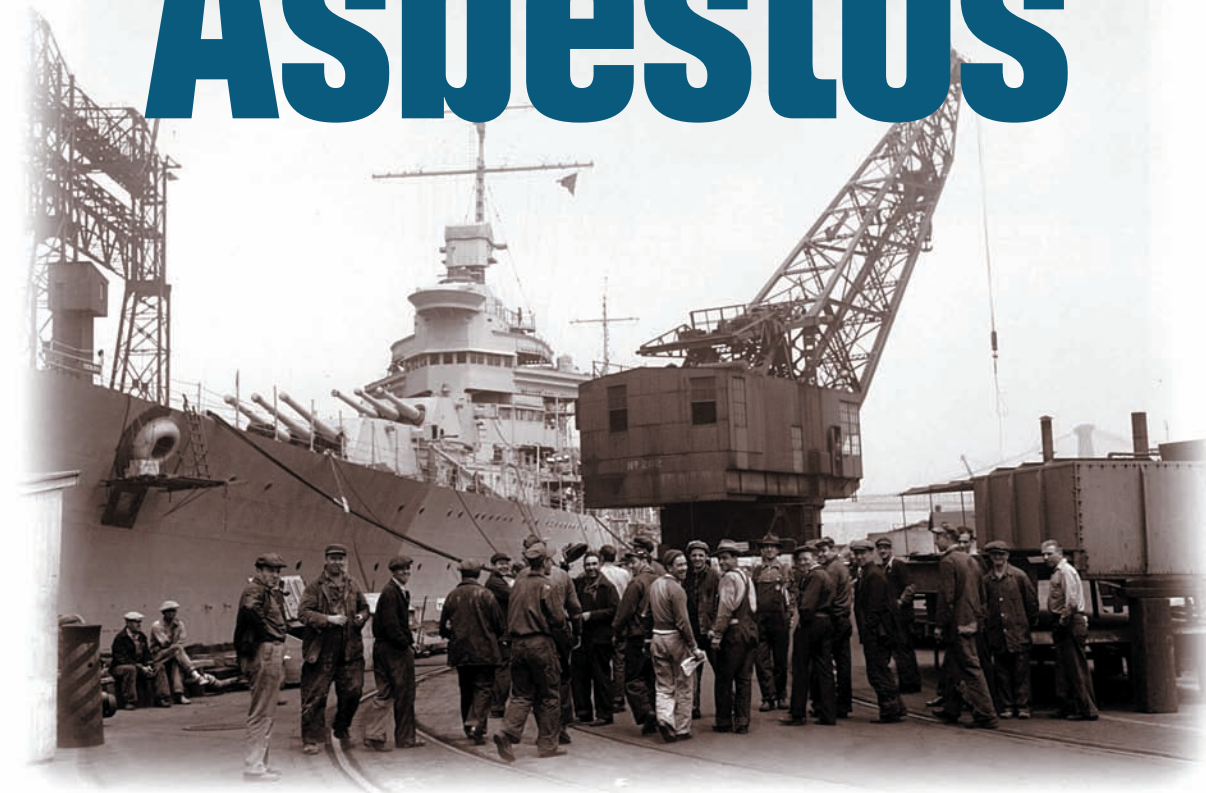
It's not always such a financial adjustment, however. Often, second-careerists have built healthy, sustainable nest eggs that allow financial freedom. Dr. Andrew DelSordo, 59, an Air Force veteran who served in Lubbock, Texas, from 1970 to 1972, practiced family medicine for 33 years. But a twist of fate changed his life. A colleague asked him to serve as trustee for his two young children. Several years ago, that colleague passed away. DelSordo then had to take responsibility for the two children's financial future. In getting a sense of their handle on personal money matters, he was stunned at how ill-prepared young people can be for the real world.

"They were bright kids, taught in private school," DelSordo says. "I concluded that there must be all kinds of kids out there who are having problems with this." Fortunately, DelSordo didn't have to sell



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his house. He already had accumulated more than enough savings to support his vision. So he trained as a financial planner at Virginia Commonwealth University and now provides such expertise to young people at local high schools.

"Being a doctor was about teaching," DelSordo says, "teaching people about risk factors like heart

disease and how you can avoid it with diet and exercise. This isn't that much of a leap, to teach young people about avoiding, say, bad credit-card debt by explaining to them that credit cards are not free money. It's not an economic issue. It's a societal one."

The Payoff. Making the decision to change careers can pay great dividends, leading to satisfying personal and financial rewards. Take immensely successful commentator Sean Hannity, co-host of the hit, "Hannity and Colmes," on Fox News Channel. He has his own syndicated radio program on the ABC Radio Network and has authored the

book, "Let Freedom Ring" (Regan Books). His is a story of much sacrifice with no guaranteed pay-offs: he left his own successful, growing home-construction business to pursue a dream of being a

broadcaster. But he was far from an overnight success. "My business was growing and growing," says Hannity, in a recent interview with *The American Legion Magazine*. "There were all kinds of remodeling jobs and, at its peak, I'd have 30 people working for me. But I didn't like it. I only liked making the money, to be honest."

"This was the 1980s, and talk radio wasn't anything like it is now. But I'd listen to this guy in Santa Barbara, Calif., while I was doing my building jobs. Then I started calling his program, and I'd get more listener reaction than he did. I got hired at the station. Then I was fired within 40 hours on the air because I was the only conservative there. But I said, 'This is what I have to do.'"

He took out numerous ads in trade publications and finally got a call from a Huntsville, Ala., station. He was hired over the phone. In Huntsville, he had no producer but hustled to book his own A-list guests, including Oliver North. From there, he struck success as a talk-show host at WGST-AM in Atlanta. Then came the big time, in his current gig as a ubiquitous, multimedia pundit with the ratings to prove that he made the right choice. "In Huntsville, I made \$19,000 a year," Hannity says. "It was a huge pay cut. But, fortunately, I saved a lot of money from the construction business. I wasn't married then, so I didn't have kids to think about like I do now. I just told myself, 'This is what I have to do. I have to be at a radio station.' I lived and breathed – and still live and breathe – to do good shows."

This diverse collection of Americans – from an ex-detective like Vincere to a media star like Hannity – have discovered that you don't have to resign to a lifetime of simply clocking into a professional existence in a job for which there is neither passion nor fulfillment. Think of what really brings you satisfaction – turning that unfinished basement into a bedroom and bath, playing dee-jay at your parents' anniversary celebration, taking photo stills of mountain ranges – and consider the ways and means to turn that into your vocation. No promises of greater wealth can be made, although such results are possible. But, in a more critical light, the outcomes most often provide a greater sense of purpose, paying dividends in unlimited capacities of intellectual, emotional and even spiritual renewal. □

Dennis McCafferty is a senior writer for USA Weekend magazine, for which he has profiled First Lady Laura Bush, Shaquille O'Neal and Russell Crowe. Based in Herndon, Va., as a freelancer, he has also contributed to Salon, Men's Health, Parenting magazine and other publications.

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The Case for Preemptive Strike



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U.S. Navy

The president is constitutionally obliged to take action against adversaries who threaten national security.

BY JACK SPENCER

The president of the United States has no greater responsibility than protecting the American people from threats both foreign and domestic. He is vested by the Constitution with the authority and responsibility to accomplish this essential task. In taking the oath of office, the president swears to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States,” the preamble of which makes providing for the “common defense” a top priority.

As the nature of threats to the United States changes, so must the nation’s approach to its defense. To fulfill his constitutional responsibility, the president must have the flexibility to address these threats as they emerge. Given the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by nations hostile to America, in an increasing number of cases, this may require applying military power before the United States or its interests are struck. In situations where the evidence demonstrates overwhelmingly that behavioral trends, capability and motives all point to imminent threat, it may be necessary for the president to attack preemptively.

While few arguments have been made against the use of armed force in Afghanistan to retaliate against acts of aggression, the idea of preemptively striking adversaries has garnered far more criticism. However, the president is legally obliged – both domestically and internationally – to preemptively strike in self-defense adversaries that present imminent threat.

Right to Self-Defense. The right to self-defense is codified in customary international law and in the charter of the United Nations. The most basic expression of a nation’s sovereignty is action taken in self-defense. Traditional international law recognizes that right, and the U.N. Charter is wholly consistent with it. Article

51 states: “Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations.”

One of the challenges of achieving national security in the 21st century is that nations or organizations wishing to challenge America or Western powers increasingly are seeking weapons of mass destruction to reach their political objectives. The only effective response is to destroy those capabilities before they are used. The tenet of customary international law that allows for this preventive or preemptive action is “anticipatory self-defense.”

An oft-cited incident that validates the practice of anticipatory self-defense as part of international law occurred in 1837. That year, British forces crossed into American territory to destroy a Canadian ship, anticipating that the ship would be used to support an anti-British insurrection. The British government claimed its actions were necessary for self-defense, and the United States accepted that explanation.

While debate continues as to whether or not this principle of international law survived the adoption of the U.N. Charter, neither the charter, nor the actions of member states since the charter came into force, outlaw the principle. Israel has invoked the right

of anticipatory self-defense numerous times throughout its history, including incidents in 1956 when it preemptively struck Egypt and in 1967 when it struck Syria, Jordan and Egypt as those nations were preparing an attack.

The United States also has asserted its right to anticipatory self-defense. A classic example occurred in 1962 when President John Kennedy ordered a blockade of Cuba – a clear act of aggression – during the Cuban missile crisis. Although no shots were fired, President Kennedy’s preemptive action was imperative for the protection of American security. During the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan invoked this right at least twice: first, in 1983, when he ordered an invasion of Grenada to protect U.S. nationals from potential harm, and again in 1986, when he ordered the bombing of terrorist sites in Libya.

When any nation that is overtly hostile to America or its allies is developing weapons of mass destruction, has ties to international terrorist and intelligence data, and gives reason to believe that it intends to attack, the threshold of the U.S. right to invoke a response based on anticipatory self-defense has clearly been passed.

Authority to Use Force. The U.S. government alone has the authority to determine what constitutes a threat to its citizens and what should be done about it. The Constitution of the United States gives this power only to the president, as commander in chief, and Congress, which has authority to raise and support armies and to declare war. So long as U.S. actions are in accord with the Constitution, no treaty or agreement can transfer this authority to an international body or give that body veto power over a U.S. decision to use military force in its own defense.

Furthermore, the president as commander in chief has the authority to use America’s armed forces to “provide for the common

The president is justified in applying preemptive military force to fight the war on terrorism. To fail to do so in spite of a threat of imminent attack would be to ignore the lessons learned from Sept. 11.

defense.” The Constitution gives Congress the authority to declare war but makes the president commander in chief. Since the birth of the nation, this division of power has given rise to tension between the executive and legislative branches of government regarding who can authorize the use of force.

Debate regarding this matter gave rise to the War Powers Resolution, which states that the

president can use force to protect the nation without congressional authorization for 60 to 90 days. Many, including every president since this resolution came into force in 1973, have regarded the document as unconstitutional. Most, however, agree that the president has the authority to defend America from attack, even in the absence of congressional authorization. It should be noted that if Congress is truly opposed to any military action authorized by the president, it has the power to deny funds for that mission, making it impossible to carry out.

Lessons from Sept. 11. The president is justified in applying preemptive military force to fight the war on terrorism. To fail to do so in spite of a threat of imminent attack would be to ignore the lessons learned from Sept. 11 regarding the nature of threats that face America in the 21st century. Before those attacks, U.S. authorities were aware of Osama bin Laden, his resources and his hatred for America. They knew he was a terrorist and that he had attacked America in the past. They also were aware that he was running terrorist training camps in Afghanistan with the blessing of the Taliban regime. Despite this information, neither the United States nor the



The guided missile destroyer USS Cole sustained extensive damage on Oct. 12, 2000, when a terrorist bomb exploded in the port of Aden, Yemen. DoD

international community took decisive action to address bin Laden's imminent aggression.

In the post-Sept. 11 world, such complacency is not acceptable. A series of lessons can be learned from the Sept. 11 attacks and the initial prosecution of the war on terrorism. These lessons must be taken into consideration when future action against terrorists and terrorist states is contemplated.

One of these lessons is that deterrence alone is not sufficient to suppress aggression. The Taliban and bin Laden could have predicted that the United States would respond to their attacks, yet they acted anyway. Although numerous reports and studies warned of the growing threat of catastrophic terrorism, the United States, for the most part, ignored those warn-

Deterrence alone is not sufficient to suppress aggression. The Taliban and bin Laden could have predicted that the United States would respond to their attacks, yet they acted anyway.

ings. The activities of a world-wide organized terrorist network were treated instead as criminal behavior.

The conclusion of recent studies has been that the risk of America being struck with a weapon of mass destruction has increased. In other words, the effectiveness of deterrence has decreased. Such massive acts of terrorism could be perpetrated by an organiza-

tion acting alone, an organization working with a nation or a nation acting alone. It would be nearly impossible to deter all of these hostile entities, given that each state and each organization has a different motivation.

The Sept. 11 attacks also demonstrated that large-scale strikes can occur with little or no warning. The emergence of global communications, advances in technology and the globalization of terrorism have significantly decreased the time it takes for a potential threat to be identified and for that threat to emerge as an act of aggression. In many instances, a specific threat may not be identified until the act of aggression has taken place, rendering preventive measures irrelevant.

In this world of drastically shortened time lines, the president's authority to act decisively to quickly defeat aggressors is essential when a preponderance of information points to a threat of imminent attack. For example, although the president did not have information that al-Qaida operatives were going to commandeer four passenger jets and use them as guided cruise missiles, ample evidence existed to show that threats to the United States would likely emerge from Afghanistan, where al-Qaida – an organization responsible for past

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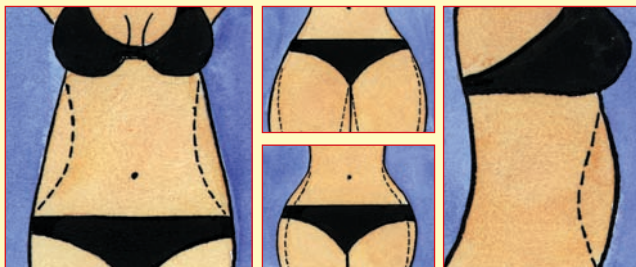
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attacks on America – was present and supported by the Taliban.

Also, the use of a weapon of mass destruction is reasonably likely. On Sept. 11, Americans were killed on a massive scale. Hostile entities increasingly view weapons of mass destruction as political assets. North Korea has admitted to a covert nuclear program and may already have two nuclear weapons; Iran has active chemical, biological- and nuclear-weapons programs; and Iraq has active WMD programs and a history of using such weapons. All three countries have ballistic- and cruise-missile programs.

Even terrorist organizations, such as al-Qaida, are involved in developing and using WMD, as was evidenced by videos in which al-Qaida was experimenting with chemical weapons on dogs. Other reports link bin Laden to the pursuit of a nuclear or radiological device. In 1995, terrorists in Japan used sarin gas to kill civilians in a Tokyo subway.

The world must understand that a deadly synergy is created when hostile state and non-state agents conspire. While hostile states continue to threaten America and its interests, the threat of non-state actors, such as al-Qaida, is growing. The danger increases when states and non-state actors work together. States have resources – including territory, finances, an international diplomatic presence and trade – that non-state actors do not have. On the other hand, non-state actors are able to operate globally and can act largely undetected.

The reality of the 21st century is that a state like Iraq can harness its resources to develop a weapon of mass destruction and collude with non-state actors to deliver that weapon. This symbiotic rela-



Reporters photograph President Kennedy behind his desk after he signed the arms embargo against Cuba. The embargo effectively quarantined the island nation. *Corbis*

tionship can operate undercover, possibly without the knowledge of the American government. Thus, a state hostile to the United States may appear to be acting within the bounds of normal diplomatic behavior while at the same time covertly supporting aggressive endeavors of its non-state allies.

The future envisioned by America's enemies is incompatible with U.S. security. Prior to Sept. 11, "soft diplomacy" – including multilateral arms control, aid incentives and appeals to reason – was the preferred approach in dealing with hostile regimes. Although the ideals of those regimes and those of the West are in direct contrast, there was hope that, eventually, these despots would transform, fall or simply discontinue their threatening activities. This policy continued as the approach of choice even though it has been demonstrably ineffective: North

No longer can the United States wait passively while hostile regimes foment terrorism, build weapons of mass destruction and propagate hatred for America.

Korea continues to sell ballistic missiles, Iran continues to support terrorism and Iraq continues to develop nuclear bombs.

On Sept. 11, however, the idea that such hostile regimes and the United States could simultaneously pursue their respective interests lost all credibility. It was clear that America's enemies were willing to use unprovoked violence to achieve their objectives. The United

States could no longer postpone acting against terrorists and nations that support them.

More than a year after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, the United States remains at war. Indeed, Vice President Dick Cheney says, "We are still closer to the beginning of this war than to its end." Although the Taliban has fallen, and al-Qaida is on the run, the reality is that the United States and its interests abroad remain directly threatened by global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction in the hands of terrorist states.

On Sept. 11, 2001, America came to a new awareness of its own vulnerability and the nature of the threats that now face the nation. No longer can the United States wait passively while hostile regimes foment terrorism, build weapons of mass destruction and propagate hatred for America. The war on terrorism will be long and difficult, but the president has the authority to prosecute this just war and the responsibility to do so, using whatever means are at his disposal. □

Jack Spencer is policy analyst for defense and national security in the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

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The Poverty Sharks

Payday lenders feed on desperate borrowers swimming in debt.

BY DAN ALLSUP

Neither a borrower nor a lender be," Shakespeare wrote in "Hamlet." He had it half right. Lending can be extremely profitable, especially if you operate a payday loan business.

Strapped for cash but have spotty credit? No problem — there's no credit check when you do business with a payday lender. They're more than willing to advance you a quick hundred bucks or so. Just flash them your driver's license and supply a bank account number and pay stub. Slide a postdated check across the counter and the money is yours — at least until payday.

Here's how it works: you need \$200 to make the car payment. You write a check for that amount plus the lender's fees, postdate it for next payday, and they hand over the cash. It's simple, fast and hassle-free. Who can object?

You will, of course, after you realize the cost of the fees. The payday-loan industry avoids usury

laws because many states consider the fees as the cost of doing business with poor credit risks. Ubiquitous on the Internet and sprinkled around low-income areas and near military installations, payday loan businesses cater to minority customers with less than college education and household incomes below \$35,000.

Predatory Rates. Payday lenders charge an annual percentage rate, or APR, that runs into the hundreds, sometimes thousands. One predatory Internet site charges \$20 for each \$100 borrowed, with the APR based on the number of days until payday. If it's seven days, you'll repay the loan at a staggering 1,043-percent APR. Repay in 18 days, the maximum with this particular company, and your annual percentage rate is a mere 406 percent.

Another Internet site selling payday loan franchises says an annual return of more than 800 percent isn't all that difficult. It reminds future lenders they can add even more cash to their soon-to-be-bulging coffers by charging an initial "set-up" fee of \$5 to \$10 the first time an applicant receives an advance.

Keep those numbers in mind when you hear about credit-card interest rates that usually top out at about 20 percent.

According to the nonprofit

Consumers Union, the high rates force many borrowers to incur even more fees because they are forced to extend their loans. The penalty for bouncing a check runs \$20 to \$30. Consumers Union cites a Wall Street analyst who says the average payday-loan customer makes 11 transactions a year. After a few visits to the neighborhood payday lender, borrowers in dire straits soon struggle to stay afloat.

How to Arrive Safely Ashore.

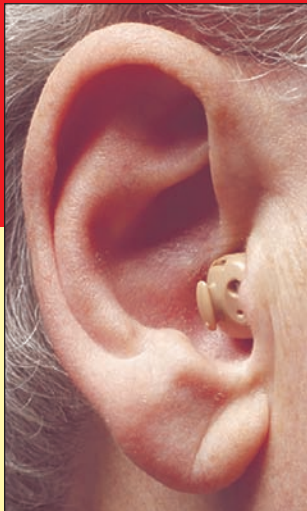
The Consumer Federation of America offers this advice if you find yourself in a short-term financial crisis:

- Shop for the lowest-cost credit available from cash advances on credit cards, small loans from a credit union or ask for an advance from your employer.
- If you need cash to pay a utility bill, ask for an extension instead.
- If you must use a payday loan, borrow the absolute minimum you need to pay with your next paycheck and still have enough left to reach the next payday.
- Get help if you are having ongoing financial problems. Budgeting and debt-management counseling is available from credit unions, most military installations and local nonprofit agencies. □

Dan Allsup is a St. Louis-area freelance writer.

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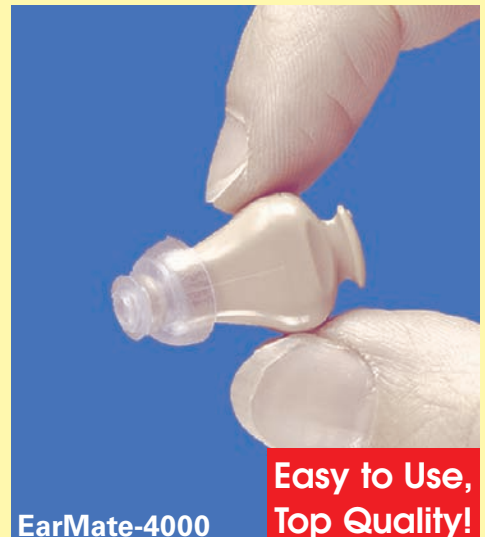
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AP

Armed and Ready

*With a citizens' militia of 400,000,
tiny Switzerland is prepared for
trouble that may never come.*

BY BEN BARBER

Switzerland's image as a place of peaceful mountains, tourism and cowbells runs counter to the fact that it is one of the most heavily armed societies on Earth. It's also a fact that has probably kept war away for centuries.

Fritz is a perfect example of this tradition. He seems like a typical Swiss innkeeper, industriously tidying up the accounts or the dining room until he goes back to his house and pulls out his machine gun.

As his wife prepares dinner and their small children play in the kitchen, Fritz sets up the gun with its tripod, reveals the sealed cans of ammunition and pulls a metal helmet out of his knapsack. He spreads the items on the carpet in front of his big-screen TV, which is airing ice skating and commercials for jeans and snack food.

"Aha!" he exclaims, pulling a final item from beneath his mountain boots and parka. "Here's my gas mask. I'm ready to go."

Fritz is like all Swiss men between ages 20 and 42, obliged to remain part of one of Europe's largest armies – that of tiny Switzerland. Within 24 hours, Switzerland can mobilize 400,000 troops, armed, loaded and equipped to survive for two weeks in the mountains. That is down from 600,000 troops available before 1995, when the age limit was reduced to 42.

On a recent visit to the idyllic tourist spot and farming village of Grindewald near the capital city of Bern, the hills were alive with the sound of artillery fire, drowning out the clanging of cowbells. Rolling peals like thunder bounced off the massive north face of the Eiger and echoed up the smaller valleys as the army conducted summer training.

In town, mobilized civilian soldiers – some of them a bit paunchy and nearing middle age – strode in green fatigue uniforms through the

streets among the fashionably dressed tourists from Zurich, New York and Tokyo. At night, with most of the village inhabitants at home watching TV or in their chalets after a day hiking the hills, a convoy of small army trucks growled in low gear up the steep roads as they shifted from one training camp to another.

Lower down, in the valley near Interlaken, army helicopters hovered about 100 feet over a grassy field. They lowered large containers that soldiers filled with weapons, ammunition and other material as they trained to defend their country. The choppers soon left, hauling their loads to sites higher in the mist-shrouded upper valleys. A bit further on, a rifle range awaited the weekend warriors, who are required each year to fire a few dozen shots and prove they can still hit a target.

Staying Neutral. Switzerland pioneered European democracy in the 1400s through annual town meetings, which to this day still govern local affairs. Because the country is a patchwork of four languages – German, French, Italian and the ancient Romanche – the Swiss have long cherished personal liberty, independence and isolation, keeping a weak central government in Bern and refusing to join international alliances such as the European Union.

"Living in lonely, isolated mountain valleys and devoid of any direct cultural ties with Europe's urban centers, the Swiss population kept out of international war, owing to its defensive attitude towards alien enemies, and later through abstinence from, and neutrality towards, European trade," writes Oswald Sigg in *Political Switzerland*, a Swiss government publication.

For example, while EU super-highways are marked with blue signs and local roads in green, Switzerland reverses the colors. So after crossing France by super-highway by following blue signs, it's easy to get diverted onto local roads by following those same blue signs inside Switzerland.

The civilian army is a major symbol of Swiss independence. All Swiss men undergo basic training for 17 weeks at age 20 and then take their weapons and mountain survival gear home with them, so they are prepared to answer the call to arms within a few hours.

"From age 20 to age 32, we must go to three-week army training eight times," Fritz says. "Then from ages 32 to 42 we must do four of the two-week trainings."

Between training camps, the civilian soldiers turn up each year at firing ranges to show they still have the skills with their weapons that make the Swiss army a force to be reckoned with.



A Piranha light-armored vehicle crosses the Swiss terrain. Within 24 hours, the nation can mobilize 400,000 troops, armed, loaded and ready to survive two weeks in the mountains. *Swiss Armed Forces Film Service*



Some historians say Hitler never invaded Switzerland because the Swiss army could block the mountain passes and mount a stiff resistance. Others say he left Switzerland alone to launder looted wealth.

In the past, Swiss men had to keep their guns and their militia status until age 52. Then the age was reduced to 42; it will drop again to 32 in the coming years. Switzerland declared itself neutral in 1515, and the last battle against a foreign power came when Napoleon invaded in 1798. Since then, the Swiss have sent some troops overseas as mercenaries and still provide protection for the Vatican.

Guarding the Peace. The length of service also is being lowered because military participation is no longer seen as the social glue holding Swiss society together. In the past, senior military officers found doors opened to them to top positions in private corporations and government ministries. The good-old-boy network has dimmed considerably in recent years as ministries and private firms seek graduates with MBAs and other

management degrees. Many Swiss men also resent the time spent humping a 40-pound pack through the hills while their families and businesses are neglected.

There are about 7 million guns in Switzerland, more than the 6.5 million people in the country. Some 500,000 of those guns are in the hands of current or retired militia members. While incidents of gun violence are rare, in September 2001 a 57-year-old man took a machine gun into the parliament in the town of Zug and killed 14 local officials. The incident rekindled a debate between supporters of the militia and those who want to go to a professional, smaller army. Polls show, however, a large majority of Swiss want to keep the militia.

So the Swiss remain ensconced in their mountainous fastness, armed and ready for troubles which are unlikely to materialize.

Fritz repacks his gear and shows me how he removes the firing pin from the machine gun, packs it in an oilcloth and stores it separately from the body of the gun. "That's so the kids can't use it," he

Between ages 20 and 32, all Swiss men attend three-week army training eight times. The length of service is being lowered because military participation is no longer regarded as the core of Swiss society. *Swiss Armed Forces Film Service*

explains. "They can play with the gun but they can't do any damage."

He describes the routine of army training camps. "We are sent to the forest and then the materials we need come to us there," he says. "Uniforms, ammunition, artillery. We take charge of the stuff and walk for four to six hours a day. We sleep in tents or in barracks, mountain shelters, barns and snow holes. Sometimes we stay out in the rain all night."

He is quietly proud of his service but says is looking forward to his last call-up. His small son, however – crawling in the living room amid the olive-green military gear – will likely replace him one day on the front lines of the militia that guards Swiss peace. □

Ben Barber covers the State Department for The Washington Times.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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Recruiting reforms

After battling school officials across the country for years, military recruiters have finally earned the right to contact high-school students to make the case for military service. The victory came in the form of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Bush administration's signature education-reform bill that passed Congress with broad bipartisan support early last year. Only recently have school administrators become aware of the law's military-recruiting provisions.

Responding to widespread reports that military recruiters were being locked out of schools and deprived of contact information that is often freely given to colleges and businesses, the law directs high-school administrators to "provide military recruiters the same access to secondary-school students as is provided ... to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers."

Military recruiters argued that their lack of access to contact information was the single greatest obstacle to fulfilling their recruiting duties. After a nationwide survey revealed that 600 high schools were banning military recruiting of all kinds, and a



quarter of America's 21,000 secondary schools were placing some sort of restriction on recruiting activities, Congress concluded that legislative action was the only remedy.

Under the law, a parent or student can opt out by directing the school not to release contact in-

formation. Moreover, the law doesn't apply to schools with religious objections to military service, nor does it apply to schools that do not receive federal education dollars.

The law has its critics, but most Americans see it as a common-sense solution to a fixable problem. As one parent fumed in an *Indianapolis Star* analysis, "A credit-card company can get all that pertinent information, but not our military? That's crazy. This is our country." Indeed, if the school-house doors and phonebooks are open to employers, ring sellers, college recruiters and sporting-goods dealers, then they should be open to military recruiters. Keeping them closed doesn't just deprive Uncle Sam of a possible recruit – it deprives thousands of young Americans of a world of opportunity that military service can offer.

– A.W.D.

A new challenge

In a bid to transform America's foreign-aid programs, the White House is calling for the creation of a new organization to oversee some \$5 billion in grants aimed at nurturing and promoting U.S.-style political and economic systems around the world. Funding comes in addition to existing foreign-aid programs and will not cut into those administered by the State Department or the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Dubbed the "Millennium Challenge Corporation," the new organization will enlist fewer than 100 employees to review and administer grant requests from some of the world's poorest countries, nations with annual per-capita incomes below \$1,445. USAID, by contrast, employs nearly 10,000 staff. A larger pool of developing nations will be invited to participate in the years ahead. Applicants will be ranked according to a number of key indicators of social-political progress, including fiscal policy, immunization statistics, access to public education, protection of civil liberties, deregulation, and open-



ness to trade and investment.

As President George W. Bush explained, "Governments must fight corruption, respect basic human rights, embrace the rule of law, invest in health care and education, follow responsible economic policies, and enable entrepreneurship." Moreover, as one administration

official told *The Wall Street Journal*, "Countries that score high on corruption will be considered guilty until proven otherwise."

Although applicant countries will, in effect, be competing for Millennium Challenge grants, traditional foreign aid will still be available through other federal agencies. "Think of it as a bonus pool," a White House adviser explained to *The New York Times*.

Regardless of what critics or supporters call it, if the White House gets its way, the Millennium Challenge Corporation promises to transform U.S. foreign aid. It will increase foreign-aid spending, giving America some bang for its buck, and it will equip the president with new tools to clean up the breeding grounds of terrorism and build what he calls the "infrastructure of democracy."

The bold initiative is already gaining bipartisan support. As former Clinton Treasury official Steven Radelet put it in an interview with *The New York Times*, "It's a very big change, and it makes sense."

– Alan W. Dowd

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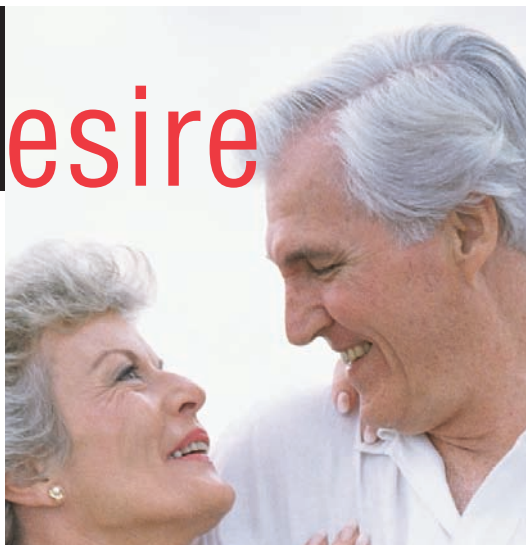
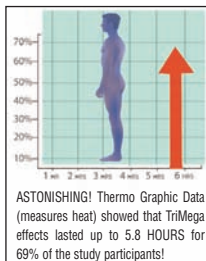
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MISSISSIPPI CHURNING

According to the Associated Press, two men who sat on juries in notoriously litigation-friendly Jefferson County, Miss., filed a lawsuit against the TV program “60 Minutes” in December, claiming they were defamed in a segment about Mississippi juries’ generosity.

Anthony Berry sat on a jury that gave out \$150 million in an asbestos case. Johnny Anderson was on one that awarded \$150 million in a diet drug case. Both men say the “60 Minutes” segment made the juries seem so extravagant that they must be getting kickbacks.

The two men’s lawsuit, filed in Jefferson County, asks for more than \$6 billion.

I MEANT TO LAUNDER IT

According to *New York Post* wire services, Sawai Khongrum was the mastermind of a robbery in Bangkok that netted him \$145,000. After the heist, he fled to the countryside but didn’t take into account how he would be able to handle the cold weather.

He couldn’t, so in order to keep warm, he burned some of the money in a bonfire. After turning himself in, Khongrum led cops to the site of a bonfire – where they found the charred remains of about \$25,000. The remaining \$120,000 was unfound.

TURNABOUT IS FAIR PLAY

Following a *Detroit Free Press* interview in November with bulk e-mailer Alan Ralsky, who bragged that his success at sending “spam” advertising had financed his \$740,000 home, Internet spam-haters tracked down Ralsky’s West Bloomfield, Mich., address and inundated him with thousands of unsolicited hard-copy catalogs and mailings.

THE BEST OF INTENTIONS

Twice within 11 days, a 7-year-old Minneapolis boy stole separate SUVs and crashed them. According to *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, when asked why he stole the first SUV, he said, “I want to be a good driver when I grow up.” After the second incident, he reportedly told authorities, “I just had to get to school, and I don’t know where it is.”

VERBATIM

“I am not surprised by anti-Americanism, but it is a foolish indulgence. For all their faults – and all nations have them – the U.S. is a force for good.”

– **TONY BLAIR**

Great Britain prime minister

“Peace on Earth to men of good will. All others stand by.”

– *An announcement reportedly made on the nuclear aircraft carrier U.S.S. Harry S. Truman, CVN 75, as the ship got under way from Norfolk, Va., for an extended deployment*

“I have the documentation, I just can’t find it. Until I get documentation, I don’t intend to wear them.”

– **GEN. MICHAEL HAGEE**

new Marine commandant, after saying he would put aside three medals he could not prove he earned, pending proper documentation

“Looking the way I look – and I still look good – I’ve had an easy life ... I’m very vain, but I don’t have a big ego problem.”

– **ACTOR TONY CURTIS**

in The Boston Herald

ALL SIGNS POINT TO THE GUYS ON THE BIKES

According to *USA Today*, the residents of Harleyville, S.C., are having a tough time keeping their town-limits sign. For the fourth time in five years, the sign has disappeared from the same spot.

Town officials have their suspicions about who might be responsible for the disappearances: Harley-Davidson fans.

A motorcycle shop owner says stealing the Harleyville signs, which have been spotted as far away as Florida, is a point of pride among some bikers. “I’ve seen them coming with a beer in one hand and a sign in the other – like I’d give them a brownie point or something,” he said.



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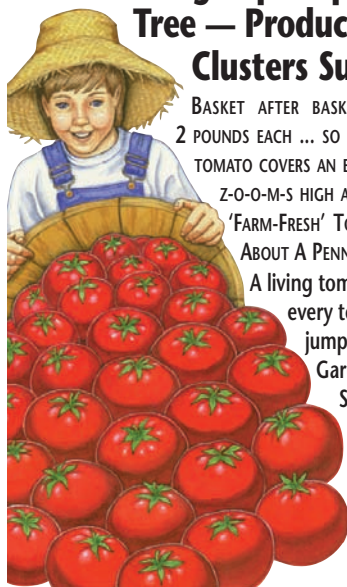
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Sleepless in America

Bad advice can contribute to insomnia.

BY DR. MINDY AISEN

Have you ever heard the following tips to help you sleep?

- If you don't sleep well at night, sleep late in the morning or nap during the day to catch up.
- If you can't fall asleep, try reading in bed.
- Everyone needs eight hours of sleep to function well the next day.
- A little alcohol before bedtime will help you sleep.

All these statements are misinformed. They are common myths that may actually contribute to insomnia that affects millions of Americans.

Insomnia is an inability to fall asleep, stay asleep or sleep soundly. According to the National Sleep Foundation, nearly half of Americans experience occasional insomnia, and nearly a quarter of Americans have experienced chronic insomnia that lasts more than a few weeks. Women are more likely than men to have insomnia, and older people are more at risk than younger people. Not everyone needs eight hours of sleep; some folks do fine on six hours. And people do not need less sleep as they age.

Over time, insomnia can have a devastating impact. Long-term effects include fatigue, decreased productivity, increased risk of accidents, poor concentration, irritability and depression. Persistent lack of sleep may even contribute to physical illness, such as heart disease.

Insomnia falls into two general categories. Secondary insomnia is due to

explainable factors, such as medication side effects, physical pain, anxiety, stress – even noisy neighbors. Many combat veterans struggle with chronic insomnia as the result of recurring nightmares. Whatever the external cause, treating it should help.

The other major type, primary insomnia, is diagnosed only after a thorough examination rules out external causes. However, it is still a symptom of a disturbance in the normal sleep cycle. Scientists at VA sleep labs and other research sites are working to unravel the biological factors linked to insomnia and related disorders.

Treatment Strategies. The first line of treatment for insomnia is to develop good sleep habits. Use over-the-counter medications with caution. Talk with your physician or pharmacist about which drug would

be safe and effective for you. Some people advocate natural herbal or nutritional products to promote sleep, such as valerian, lemon balm or melatonin. If you are interested in these products, research them thoroughly and consult with a qualified health practitioner.

Physicians may prescribe medication – particularly hypnotic drugs known as benzodiazepines – but usually only as a short-term solution. These medications may lead to further disruptions of the sleep cycle and may cause daytime sleepiness or other unwanted side effects.

A better approach for long-term treatment may be cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). Researchers at the Durham VA Medical Center and Duke University recently conducted a study involving 75 volunteers with chronic insomnia. One group received CBT, including counseling and education about bedtime

habits and limits on non-sleep time spent in bed. A second group learned relaxation techniques. A third group received mock therapy. The CBT group was by far the most successful in cutting the amount of time they stayed awake after going to bed.

If you are struggling with insomnia, take heart. Talk to your doctor or a sleep-clinic professional about developing a plan that will help you toward a better night's sleep.

Mindy Aisen, M.D., is a neurologist and director of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service in the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

Tips for good sleeping

If you're having trouble sleeping at night, these suggestions may help:

- Avoid caffeine, nicotine and alcohol late in the day.
- Don't nap during the day.
- Exercise regularly, but not within two hours of bedtime.
- Establish a calming bedtime routine, such as taking a bath, reading or listening to music.
- Go to bed and wake up the same time every day.
- If you don't fall asleep within 20 or 30 minutes, don't keep trying. Get up and engage in a relaxing, soothing activity. Don't pay bills or watch a horror movie.



Masterfile

Honor



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New drug offered for hepatitis C

A new treatment for hepatitis C approved by the Food and Drug Administration has been made available by the Department of Veterans Affairs to enrolled veterans.

The treatment, approved by the FDA Oct. 16, is called “pegylated interferon alfa-2a.” VA has made arrangements with the manufacturer to ship the new drug to VA facilities sooner than any other medical system.

“We take care of more patients with this debilitating liver disease than any other health system in the country – more than 70,000 a year,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “These veterans deserve the best, most responsive care we can offer, including the very latest, approved treatments. We are getting this drug in the shortest time possible to facilities that have the most need.”

Several advances in treating hepatitis C – particularly with the introduction of the “pegylated interferons” – include drugs that act against the hepatitis-C virus used alone or in combination with other drugs.

Through VA’s national hepatitis-C program, veterans with the disease receive the most appropriate medical care, including counseling for risk-factor identification and disease prevention, systematic screening and testing, proactive patient and clinician education, liver transplantation if clinically necessary, and support services such as mental health care and substance abuse.

VA has screened more than 2.6 million veterans for hepatitis-C risk factors since the systemwide policy was established in 1999. To better manage and improve patient care, VA created a national case registry of patients.

VA, DoD expand cooperative efforts in Chicago

The DoD and VA expanded their cooperative efforts in metropolitan Chicago with an agreement to coordinate health-care operations in the North Chicago-Great Lakes areas.

“This joint initiative marks the beginning of an era of renewed – and I believe, unprecedented – collaboration between the health-care resources of VA and the Defense Department,” VA Undersecretary for Health Robert H. Roswell said.

Roswell announced the agreement with Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs William Winkenwerder. It calls for the Navy to construct a new ambulatory medical facility for outpatient services. The North Chicago VA Medical Center will provide comprehensive surgical care.

The Navy, through partnership with North Chicago VAMC, will use the VA hospital for its inpatient medical and surgical needs. Additionally, Navy surgical teams will work at the North Chicago VAMC.

“With this agreement, the Navy gains a modern ambulatory-care center at a cost less than building a new hospital,” Winkenwerder said. “VA beneficiaries gain increased access to surgical care closer to their homes and families, and the overall operating expenses of both departments should be reduced.”

VA starts list server for news

Veterans interested in obtaining the latest information from the Department of Veterans Affairs – from news releases and fact sheets to other products from VA’s Office of Public Affairs – can sign up for automatic distribution through e-mail.

Called a “list server,” the device will provide veterans, reporters, veterans service organizations and interested Americans with VA’s written products within seconds of their formal release in Washington.

“By tapping into the latest technology, VA is providing one more tool to inform veterans about services and programs,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. “This will help them use the benefits that they have earned by their military service.”

Anyone wishing to receive materials distributed by VA’s new list server can subscribe online at www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/opalist_listserv.cfm. Subscribers will be

asked to provide a name and e-mail address.

To discontinue service, subscribers go to the same Internet address and click the appropriate button.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

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Memorial construction nears midpoint

America's World War II veterans have waited 57 years for a national memorial commemorating their service and sacrifice. Their wait is down to 15 months.

The American Battle Monuments Commission has announced that the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington on May 29, 2004.

"This memorial will be a permanent reminder of the service of millions of young men and women – not only those in uniform, but that generation – for the great sacrifice they made," said former Sen. Bob Dole, national chairman of the memorial campaign.

The Memorial Day weekend celebration on the National Mall will culminate an 11-year effort to honor America's World War II

generation. The memorial was authorized by Congress in 1993. Construction began in September 2001 after several years of fundraising and public hearings.

"Veterans are planning reunions in conjunction with the dedication," said ABMC Chairman P. X. Kelley, former commandant of the Marine Corps. "With construction on schedule for completion in spring 2004, we want to give veterans and their families plenty of time to make travel plans."

"Unfortunately, fewer than 4 million of the 16 million Americans who served in uniform during the war are expected to be alive when the memorial is dedicated. We lose 1,100 World War II vets each day, so the dedication cannot come too soon."

Dedication events could include a World War II-themed exhibition on the Mall, a memorial service at the Washington National Cathedral and related activities throughout the city.

Event details will be available as they are confirmed on the memorial's Web site at www.wwiimemorial.com or by calling (800) 639-4992. Lodging and travel information will be available through the Web site courtesy of the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation.

The memorial is being funded primarily by private donations and has received nearly \$189 million in cash and pledges. It is being built on the Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

Nation's oldest World War I veteran dies

Jesse N. Edmisten, believed to be the nation's oldest living World War I veteran, died Jan. 17 at the age of 109. He was a member of Lexington Lanning Post 111 in Lexington, Neb. Though slowed by his years, Edmisten exhibited a keen wit and sharp memory of the war.

Edmisten was born in a sod house on the banks of the Wood River near Oconto, Neb., on Jan.

16, 1894, to William and Jane Edmisten. After working on his father's ranch until he was 23, Edmisten was drafted to serve in World War I.

Four years ago, the French government presented Edmisten with the National Order of the Legion of Honor, given to Allied survivors who helped free France during World War I. Edmisten was the first Nebraska veteran to receive

the Legion of Honor. He also earned a Purple Heart.

Edmisten outlived his parents, who died in their 70s and 80s. He also outlived seven siblings, two wives and four of his six children.

Edmisten is survived by his daughter Nettie Ardissono, 78, of Oshkosh, Neb., and her sister, Marie Schwenka, 80, of Lake Bay, Wash.



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R. Cohen, M.D.
Dr. Richard Cohen

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Franchise program opens doors to vets

The nation's veterans recently received a boost toward achieving the American dream. The International Franchise Association has reinvigorated its Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative – VetFran – in an effort to aid former military personnel to aspire to become small-business owners.

Launched 10 years ago, VetFran was inspired by the late Don Dwyer, founder of The Dwyer Group. The Gulf

For more info

International Franchise Association
1350 New York Ave., N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005-4709
(202) 628-8000
www.franchise.org

War was under way and more than 100 members of the association expressed gratitude by providing financial incentives to aid veterans in acquiring franchises.

Since veterans will again be returning from the front lines, the association's board of directors has relaunched the program and charged a VetFran Task Force, chaired by Dina Dwyer-Owens, president and CEO of The Dwyer Group, to invite IFA members to join the roster of companies committed to offering veterans unique business opportunities.

More than 60 companies joined Phase I of the effort, which enlisted franchise concepts with an initial total investment of \$150,000 or less. The maximum loan amount the Small Business Administration offers is an 85-percent guarantee. The task force recommended that franchise systems contribute a portion of the franchise fee as part of the initial earned equity. The amount is flexible but sufficient to enable a financially qualified veteran to acquire a franchise with a 10-percent down payment.

A veteran from Hawaii recently became the first to acquire a franchise under the revitalized VetFran program, obtaining one for Expectec Technology Services, a technology supplier headquartered in Garden Grove, Calif. He paid \$40,000 instead of the \$60,000 he would have paid without VetFran.

The 2003 International Franchise Expo, open at no charge to veterans, will host the seminar "Franchising 101 for Veterans." In addition to explaining the basics of franchising, including how to evaluate a franchise opportunity and questions to ask before investing, the seminar will include details about VetFran. The Expo is set for April 11 to 13 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington.

All honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. armed services are eligible for the VetFran program.

Legion offers discount meeting travel

The American Legion offers discounts with several major airlines for travel to official meetings during 2003. Discounts range from 5 percent to 12 percent and vary depending on destination city and how far in advance reservations are made. Travel must occur within three days before and after the listed dates (five days for the National Convention). To book reservations, contact the airlines at the toll-free numbers listed.

National Headquarters also offers an in-house travel agent, Marti Wooden, to assist with reservations. Contact her at (317) 630-1232, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST.

AMERICAN LEGION MEETINGS FOR 2003

March 21-23	NLIC ¹	Manchester, N.H.
March 28-30	NLIC	Indianapolis
April 4-6	NLIC	Macon, Ga. & Las Vegas
April 11-13	Oratorical Contest	Indianapolis
April 25-27	NLIC	Philadelphia & Sioux City, Iowa
May 3-8	Spring Meetings	Indianapolis
July 15-26	Boys Nation	Washington
July 23-26	DSO² School	Indianapolis
Aug. 5-10	JSSP ³	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Aug. 12-19	Baseball Regionals	Albany, N.Y.; Charlotte, N.C.; Hartford, Conn.; Kansas City, Mo.; Minneapolis; Missoula, Mont.; Sacramento, Calif.; Tri-City, Mich.
Aug. 18-28	National Convention	St. Louis
Aug. 20-27	Baseball World Series	Tulsa, Okla.
Sept. 6-10	Legislative Meetings	Washington
Sept. 19-21	NLIC	Dallas & Boise, Idaho
Oct. 6-9	Fall Meetings	Indianapolis
Oct. 24-26	Americanism Conference	Indianapolis
Oct. 2-7	Legion College	Indianapolis

¹ National Leadership Information Conference

² Department Service Officer

³ Junior Shooting Sports Program

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Refer to Gold File Number 8718-2612.
Hours: 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. EST

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Refer to Index Number 15980.

Northwest Airlines reservations

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Refer to World File Number NYR5B.

United Airlines reservations

(800) 521-4041
Refer to tour code ID # 500ZV.

Southwest Airlines reservations

(800) 433-5368
Refer to ID Code R7073
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST;
Saturday and Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST.

Discounts apply for National Convention only.

Vets link ailments to Cold War-era tests

When Jim Druckemiller and his fellow crewmen aboard the USS *Powder* began getting colds and sore throats during their tour of duty, they blamed it on the weather near the Arctic Circle, not on weapons tests the ship was conducting. The tests, conducted periodically between 1962 and 1973, were meant to assess chemical and biological weapons, and American equipment and procedures for dealing with them.

Now, nearly 40 years later, Druckemiller and other former seamen are beginning to question

More info

If you would like more information about Project SHAD, contact the Department of Defense Health Support Directorate at: (800) 497-6261

if their ailments and illnesses are related to their participation in the Shipboard Hazard and Defense program, a series of Cold War-era tests better known as Project SHAD.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is wondering, too. The agency recently hired the Institute of Medicine to conduct a three-year, \$3 million study into the possible health effects of nerve agents and biological toxins sprayed onboard ships. The group will conduct its first meeting this month, spokesman Jim Benson said.

At the same time, VA has been notifying former service members involved in the tests, a process sometimes slowed by classification concerns and difficulty in locating veterans. Letters will soon be sent to an additional 1,400 veterans. VA estimates that about 5,500 men participated in the tests.

Veterans' groups and their congressional allies remain bothered by the delays and by limited information about some of the tests. Lawmakers recently mandated that the Department of Defense report on its progress in releasing information about Pro-

ject SHAD. DoD is required to issue a comprehensive report to VA about all 112 project tests, including medical information. DoD also must work with veterans' groups to identify any other as-yet-undiscovered tests that may have exposed former

servicemembers to biological or chemical agents.

"The main thing is, when our troops are exposed, the information needs to come out," the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Assistant Director Steve Smithson said.

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Legion honors FNBO for support

Department of Nebraska Commander Richard A. Baxter and Adjutant Robert Craig recently presented the Blue Star Banner Corporate Flag to First National Bank of Omaha during a ceremony at First National Tower in Omaha. The Department of Nebraska presented the flag in recognition of the bank's commitment to serving veterans through its continued support of The American Legion.

In 2001, First National Bank and The American Legion joined forces to provide The American Legion Visa™ Card as well as a full range of financial services to the organization's nearly 2.8 million members. First National Bank of Omaha contributes a portion of its earnings from member transactions to programs such as American Legion Baseball, Boys Nation, the National Oratorical Contest and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

"First National Bank is honored to be associated with The American Legion," said George Schmelzel, senior vice president of the bank. "Their members have given so much through service to our country. The organization has a proud tradition of committing considerable support to our nation's veterans and youth."

The Blue Star Banner was originally designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt.



Department of Nebraska Commander Richard A. Baxter, center, presents First National Bank of Omaha with The American Legion's Blue Star Banner Corporate Flag. Accepting the flag for the bank, left to right, are Corporate Banking President Dennis O'Neal and Consumer Banking President Elias Eliopoulos.

Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry. The red-bordered banners with a blue or gold star in a field of white are displayed in windows of the homes of service-members' families. During World War II, banners could be purchased at five-&-dimes and local hardware stores. In more recent years, Legion posts have distributed them.

The American Legion rejuvenated the Blue Star Banner program following the Sept. 11 terror-

ist attacks. Available for purchase from the Legion's Emblem Sales division are Blue Star Banners, Gold Star Banners and Corporate Service Flags, as well as Blue Star posters, decals and lapel pins.

Last year, sales of Blue Star Banners and related items through Emblem Sales were staggering. More than 96,000 units were purchased by individuals and posts. Of these, more than 69,000 were Blue Star Banners; 14,516 were 3-inch-by-6-inch Blue Star Decals; 1,512 were Corporate Service Flags; and 733 were Gold Star Service Banners.

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SBA to aid business owners affected by call-ups

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development has several services available to veteran-owned businesses that might be affected by the federal call-up of military reservists and/or National Guard.

For more information about any of these programs, contact the local SBA district office via the U.S. government listings in the local phone directory; call (800) 827-5722; visit SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/reservists; or call its Office of Veterans Business Development at (202) 205-6773.

SBA services

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www.sba.gov/disaster/mreidl.html
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www.sba.gov/regions/states
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Business counseling and training

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Legion delegation meets with Taiwan president

National Commander Ronald F. Conley, along with delegates from The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, met recently with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian as part of Conley's Far East trip.

The American Legion has had a strong relationship with the government of Taiwan and its Veterans Assistance Commission for more than 50 years. Conley met with Chen to reaffirm the Legion's support for Taiwan's self-determination and its ability to defend itself. Chen said the long-standing bilateral friendship lies in the two nations' shared values of

democracy, freedom and human rights, as well as their expectations for regional and world peace.

U.S. arms support is critical to protecting Taiwan's hard-won democratic achievements, he added.

Chen said he was proud that local elections in Taipei and Kaohsiung had proceeded without incident. "Even more amazing is that the street landscape and everyday life in the two cities have quickly returned to normal after the frenzied campaigns," he said, adding that these phenomena indicate that democracy has matured and taken root in Taiwan.



Representatives from The American Legion recently met with government officials from the Republic of China on a trip to the Far East. Visiting the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial and Concert Hall are, left to right, the Legion's VAC's Overseas Liaison Director Hans Song, National Commander Ronald F. Conley, National Auxiliary President Elsie Bailey, Past National Auxiliary President Sherry McLaughlin and Aide to the National Commander Rick Oakes.

Vets' stories offer 'living history' for youth

The American Legion believes military veterans are living textbooks of U.S. history. Their experiences should be preserved and shared.

"Veterans in the Classrooms" is a nationwide Legion initiative to give students the opportunity to learn how the service of America's veterans has affected their lives.

U.S. veterans have played an integral part in historical events, putting them in a position to teach children to appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of America's military. Firsthand accounts allow students to learn from those who actually fought the battles.

"Veterans in the Classrooms" became a national initiative in May 2002, when the Legion's National Executive Committee passed Resolution 33, which established the program, gave it a name, and encouraged departments to develop a registry of speakers from its membership to address school groups and other youth organizations. The resolution also authorized the National Americanism Commission to develop resource materials, and to prepare and distribute instructional literature.

For more info

"America's Veterans" is available through Emblem Sales for \$3.95. The program comes with a comprehensive teacher's guide and a volunteer classroom-presentation outline.

To order call:
(317) 630-1247

Online: www.emblem.legion.org

For more information, contact
Americanism and Children & Youth at:
(317) 630-1207
acy@legion.org

President George W. Bush drew attention to the relationship between veterans and schools in a visit to Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville, Md., in November 2001. During that visit, the president outlined plans for the "Lessons of Liberty" initiative, an interagency cooperative effort of the departments of Veterans Affairs and Education. Its objectives focused primarily on Veterans Day activities. The Legion's program promotes a year-round cooperative relationship between schools and veterans.

Instituting "Veterans in the Classrooms" programs benefits both the Legion and schools. Such programs offer local posts opportunities to promote youth-program

participation, share scholarship information, and teach flag history and respect. In schools where the program has been established, veterans sometimes assume celebrity status. Students gain greater respect and understanding of veterans' sacrifices and commitment to service, and learn the true meaning of patriotism. The programs also provide interaction between two distinct generations of Americans, without the slant of media or textbook academia.

To organize a "Veterans in the Classrooms" program, the post or school must forge a relationship. The program could begin with a Veterans Day or Memorial Day observance and then continue with classrooms appearances.

The initial program also can be built around the award-winning video program "America's Veterans," which was developed and produced for the Legion by the Center for Educational Resources. The 23-minute program addresses subjects that include who veterans are, how and why we honor them, what we can learn from the lives of veterans, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

M&PA chairman encourages organizational horn-tooting

National Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman Martin Conatser believes two tactics sell membership: believe in the Legion and inspire others.

In a recent group discussion among Legionnaires, Conatser learned why members don't ask active-duty servicemembers to join. "A lot of our members aren't confident about asking other people to join because they don't take the time to think about why they belong," Conatser said. "The reason I belong is because I believe in The American Legion's values, and the organization supports the values I believe in." He believes others will join for the same reasons.

Conatser said informing servicemembers about Legion programs is crucial, especially due to the U.S. involvement in the war on terrorism and a looming conflict with Iraq.

"Right now, the needs for our services for those in the military are unlimited," he said. "We need to reconnect with these servicemembers and make sure they're aware of programs like the Family Support Network. Letting them know what the Legion does will bring these soldiers back to us.

"What we do in the next three to five years with programs like Reconnect will have a great impact on The American Legion. Sponsor an active-duty soldier in his first year of membership. Take time to explain to him why it's important that he become a member. Take that first step."

Conatser said it's also important for members to realize the importance of recruiting on a national scale, emphasizing the Legion's veterans and youth programs.

"We should be proud of what we're about, and we should give all veterans a chance to be a part of that."

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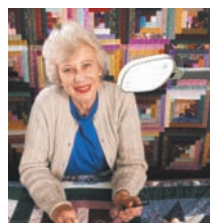
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How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a

contact name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades Editor, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org. The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

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ARMY

1st Cav Div 15th Med Bn & Medevac (Vietnam), Kissimmee, FL, 6/13-15, Bob McKinley, (727) 596-2789, usaretbob@aol.com; **2nd Inf Rgt 5th & 1st Divs**, Abilene, KS, 5/1-3, William Beatty, (540) 662-8654, wbeatty@intelos.net; **3rd Bn 28th Arty**, Branson, MO, 9/7-10, Ralph Treat, (479) 521-1697, rtreat@uark.edu; **3rd Inf Div Society**, St. Louis, 9/18-21, Rodger Lochmann, (618) 345-1067; **6th Cav & Attached Units**, Chattanooga, TN, 6/6-8, Preulow Brown, (615) 895-0817; **9th Inf Div E Co 3rd Bn 60th Inf**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 8/27-30, Jimmy Toney, (580) 638-2353, jimtonney@tds.net; **14th Field Hosp/56th Gen Hosp**, Denver, 7/25-27, Charles Fahler, (574) 595-7355, charlie9@pwrct.com; **16th Armd Div Patton's 3rd Army (ETO, WWII)**, Fort Smith, AR, 9/11-14, Edward Krusheski, (609) 978-0490, ed16armor@aol.com; **23rd Inf Rgt Korea**, Macon, GA, 9/8-14, Jim Coulos, (630) 232-2042; **26th Inf Rgt Assn**, Aberdeen, MD, 6/11-15, Gene Cocke, (703) 250-9085, dobel26@aol.com

31st Inf "Dixie" Div, Nashville, TN, 5/14-18, Marion Spencer, (601) 992-0472, marionspencer@yahoo.com; **36th Div Assn San Antonio Chpt**, San Antonio, 4/1-3, John Mathis, (210) 666-7000; **64th FA Bn Assn**, Louisville, KY, 8/7-10, K.H. Bailey, (919) 787-1643, eeekhb@earthlink.net; **86th Blackhawk Div Assn**, New Orleans, 9/10-14, Robert Bookbinder, (954) 974-3511, carconed@aol.com; **86th Chem Mortar Bn Assn**, Newport News, VA, 5/4-8, George Murray, (256) 820-4415; **106th Ord Assn (1950-1955)**, Tahlequah, OK, 10/5, Jerry Buffington, (918) 456-6844, jerrybuf@fullnet.net; **113th Cav Recon Mech Grp**, Sioux City, IA, 5/15-18, Allen Tasker, (712) 276-4072, chntral@aol.com; **200th Assault Support Heli Co "Bearcat" (Vietnam, 1967-1968)**, Fort Rucker, AL, 6/7-11, Bob Nealey, (678) 393-9744, tractorfire2@aol.com; **502nd Cbt MP Bn**, Williamsport, PA, Oct, Luke P. Reiner, (570) 368-8752; **503rd MP Co (Germany)**, Branson, MO, 6/15-19, Fred Phelps, (765) 866-0734, fngphelps@spitfire.net

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Inf 2nd Inf Div, Louisville, KY, 9/14-17, Bill Nicholson, (573) 365-5436; **B Co 78th Tank Bn**, Branson, MO, 5/14-17, Robert Gunning, (219) 696-0409; **Delta Co 2nd Bn 16th Inf Rgt 1st Inf Div (1967-1968)**, Allegan, MI, 7/18-20, Don Dignan, (734) 525-0157, ddignan@peoplepc.com; **US Constabulary**, Rutland, VT, 5/12-15, Ernest Cologne, (401) 658-1572, constabulary@juno.com; **Vietnam & Vietnam-Era Vets**, Freehold, NY, 7/25-27, John Kellegher, (518) 634-7748, jjk2897@aol.com;

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MARINES

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42nd FA Bn (Gelnhausen, Germany, 1951-1952), Arthur Tipton, 14654 N. 87th Drive, Peoria, AZ 85381, awtipton7@hotmail.com
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550th Strat Missile Sqdn (Schilling AFB, 1961-1964), John McLaughlin, (215) 794-0691
554th Air Material Sqdn, (Lackland Field, TX, June-Aug 1946 or Irumagawa, Japan, Jan1947-Mar 1949), Aldon R. Georgeson, (218) 826-7275
570th Eng Det (Vietnam, 1968-1969), William Green, (931) 853-4915
707th MP Bn (England, Normandy or Europe, 1942-1945), Barbara Shedd Pierce, 6810 Ramsey Place, Dayton, OH 45415, gparrot@erinet.com
765th Trans Railway Shop Bn (Pusan, Korea, 1954-1955), Joseph T. Thornton, (850) 951-8885, joet3@gdssys.net
788th Amph Tract (Dulag-Leyte Island, Philippines, Oct 1944), William Tremper, P.O. Box 724, Lower Lake, CA 95457
809th/306th Food Serv Sqdn SAC (MacDill AFB, 1956-1960), John Baker, (517) 896-3620, enajo@juno.com
824th Opns Sqdn Carswell AFB (Oct 1956-June 1958), John N. Knobloch, (209) 728-3639
844th AAA AW Bn D Co, Patrick J. Cassalia Sr., (315) 487-3972, patcassali@aol.com
3259th Sig Serv Co (WWII), Jack O'Connell, (212) 989-6089
3918th Cbt Support Grp (RAF Upper Heyford, England, 1959-1963), Jim Seymour, (845) 454-6641, jimseymourj1260312601@yahoo.com
7535th Sqd (Mess Hall, RAF Sta Kirknewton, Scotland, 1952-1955), Malcolm Moore, P.O. Box 563, Oil City, LA 71061
7822nd SCU C Det (McGraw Kaserne, Munich,

Germany, Mil Post, 1949-1952), Stefan Karadian, (248) 851-1357, stefan8bgd@aol.com
8224th MP Det (Inchon, Korea, 1956-1957), William Green, (931) 853-4915
8624 DU ASA Pacific (Fort Shafter, HI, 1955-1957), John Childs, (530) 666-6870
Air Devron Six VX-6 "Operation Deepfreeze" (1964-1967), Dan Rowsey, (540) 965-8994, mimirow@webtv.net
Armed Forces Police Dept (Boston Navy building, May 1960-Feb 1962), Robert P. Cessna, (814) 857-7205, rcessna@pennswoods.net
B Btry 499th FA 14th Armnd Div (France and Germany, 1944-1945), Richard McNeil, (727) 845-3361
B Co 101st MP Bn (Pisa, Italy, 1945-1946), John H. Holdeman, (928) 286-1629
Black Mil Personnel (1941-1945), D. Wilson, 6157 N. Sheridan Road, Unit 9B, Chicago, IL 60660, debra199@yahoo.com
C Btry 15th Coast Arty (Fort Barrette, HI, Nov 1941), Rufus A. Williamson, (276) 228-5292
C Co 2nd Bn 39th Inf 9th Inf Div (Camp Schroeder), John DeSorbo, 15 Norwood St., Albany, NY 12203, diamondoleg@yahoo.com
Camp Algona, Jerry Yocum, (515) 295-3719, yocumcampalgona@netamumail.com
CASU-15 (Guadalcanal and Efate, WWII), Wendell Hubbs, (573) 635-1579, whubb@mail.ultraweb.net
Class 122-SB 25 Basic Tng (Keesler Field, MS, March-May 1946), Ernest Leyh, (702) 361-4431
Co 8 Sig School (Camp Gordon, GA, Nov 1949-Apr 1950), Ernest Leyh, (702) 361-4431
Co 122 Unit C Sampson NTS (Feb-May 1943), Tom Messore, (518) 664-3772
Co 859 (San Diego NTC, Sept-Nov 1951), George Younger, (662) 286-8354
Co 969 (Great Lakes NTC, April 1944), William Welsh, (810) 376-3821
D-13-4/E-13-4 (Fort Knox, KY, 1971), Steve Keller, (865) 523-0949
Easy Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar 1st Mar Div (1952-1953), O.G. Morehead, (706) 857-2149, peggy@wave-gate.com
G Co 3rd Bn 11th Armnd Cav Rgt (Feb 1953-Feb 1955), Jerry Brown, (715) 693-2725
G Co MP (Camp Gordon, GA, 1952-1953), Larry Howard, (480) 832-9183, lavi813@aol.com
Great Lakes NTC (ship's cooks, 1944-1947), Melvin Unterbrink, (618) 259-0707
H Co 410th Inf Rgt 103rd Div (France and Germany, 1944-1945), Bill Linster, 1530 Liberty St., Aurora, IL 60505
Heyford Minutemen Precision Drill Team (RAF Upper Heyford, England, 1959-1963), Jim Seymour, (845) 454-6641, jimseymourj1260312601@yahoo.com
HQ & HQ Service Co 45th Recon Bn (Fort Clayton, 1952-1954), Vincent Blackhawk, (406) 343-2107
I Co 13th Inf Rgt, 8th Div (Fort Jackson, SC, Oct-Dec 1953), Robert Creekmore, (828) 668-7771, robroy@wnclink.com
K Co 3rd Bn 5th Mar Rgt 1st Mar Div (Vietnam, Aug 1966-Aug 1967), David Rangler, (352) 475-9558
Keesler AFB (Radio OP School, 1949-1950), Dick Loehnis, (810) 326-1408
Ladd Rangers Football Team (Fairbanks, AK, 1955-1956), Charlie Brockwell, (804) 741-5333, champ0124@aol.com
MAG-61 VMB-443 (radio gunners replacement group, Emirau or Pacific theater, Jan 1945), Fred Ronson, (800) 422-4663 ext. 222
Mar Postal 0161 3rd Mar Div (Okinawa or Cherry Point, NC, 1958), John Cooke, (314) 965-8168, joco843@aol.com
MSO Sailors (1952-1992), Dick Lewis, (407) 292-2394, flafloo@aol.com
NAS NATTU (Philadelphia, Jan 1965-Jan 1966), Freeman "Sonny" Lewis, (207) 784-0312
NAS Whidbey Island (crash crew, Oak Harbor, WA, 1962-1965), Chester "Chet" H. Sheets, (814) 757-4737, cnm@pennswoods.net
Naval Supply School (San Diego, 1955), John McFarlane, (480) 967-6498
North Atl Wing ATC AAF (Harmon Field, Newfoundland, 1943-1945), Paul Flintoff, (863) 471-9991
Parks AFB, CA (1952-1953), Jerry Garcia, (509) 464-0312, chiefgman4@aol.com
Plt 427 (Parris Island, June-Aug 1944), Joe Vlastro, (518) 793-2437
Project SHAD (Hawaii, 1964-1966), Raymond Johnson, 37286 Meredith Drive, Lebanon, OR

97355, rjohnson43@hotmail.com
Serv Co 15th Inf Rgt 3rd Inf Div (Korea, 1950-1951), Robert Gann, (865) 932-7952
SS A. Mitchell Palmer (Armed Guard, May-Oct 1945), Tom Messore, (518) 664-3772
SS Laura Keene (June-Sept 1944), Tom Messore, (518) 664-3772
Teletype Maint Class 26015-B (F.E. Warren AFB, June 1955), George S. Bowman, (814) 623-8809
Underwater Swim School (Key West, FL), Don Stone, (561) 391-6727, stonefish7@cs.com
USMC Basic School Class 4-65 (Quantico, VA), George J. Rodosky, (847) 381-8695, rodoskygj@ameritech.net
USMC Sec Guards (American Embassy, Saigon), Mike Bertini, (910) 353-7377
USN Comm Station (San Diego, Imperial Beach or Lemon Grove, 1952-1955), Howard Rudloff, 4237 78th St., Omaha, NE 68134
USS Cassin DD 372 (1943-1945), Harley Bigler, (304) 363-9278
USS Chew DD 106 (1943-1944), Mel Nelson, (760) 320-2877, meldot@juno.com
USS Dahlgren DD 187 (1943-1944), William F. Catron Sr., (704) 663-0968
USS Execute AM 232 (1943-1946), Pat Coffey, 23 Beechwood Terrace, Matawan, NJ 07747, patcoffey232@aol.com
USS Henley DD 762 (1952-1956), B.W. Kave, (304) 262-6021, bkave68@hotmail.com
USS Hornet (1955-1956), John McFarlane, (480) 967-6498
USS Jerauld AP 174 (WWII), A.D. Stewart, R.O. Box 1045, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568
USS Juneau CL/CLAA 119 (1946-1955), Ken Cook, (803) 556-8102, kcook3@prodigy.net
USS LSM 324 (Philippines, 1944-1945), Bruce Davis, (845) 331-8742, bkdbuce@att.net
USS LST 940 (Nov 1944-Sept 1945), James M. Hawkins, (423) 245-7222, mayhawk95@aol.com
USS Meyerkord FF 1058/DE 1058 (1976-1978), Raymond Robbins, 11113 E. Highway 66, Evanston, IN 47531
USS Naos AK 105 (Aug 1943-Dec 1945), Odean "Rosie" Rosenberg, (708) 333-5885, emkka@aol.com
USS Plymouth PG 57, Thurman Wade, (304) 645-3810
USS Princeton CVA 37 (Disbursing Office, 1950-1953), Dick Story, (509) 829-5366 story221@charter.net
USS Red Oak Victory AK 235 (Dec 1944-June 1946), Caleb Batten, (941) 921-5156
USS Safeguard ARS 25 (Vietnam, 1969-1971),

Danny Mackey, (580) 252-5651, mypickup@texhoma.net
USS Salmon SS 182 7th Patrol (Nov 1944), John Kovacs, 305 S. Stone Creek Circle, Payson, AZ 85541
USS Salt Lake City CA 25 (electrician's mates, Oct 1943-Apr 1946), Jim Forrester, (918) 627-0748, jimforusslc25@aol.com
USS Samuel B. Chase, Sandra Bentz McCallister, (570) 676-9386
USS Saratoga CVA 60 V-3 Div (1963-1965), Jimmy Anselm, 3500 Clearview Parkway, Metairie, LA 70006
USS Sea Owl SS 405 (naval aircrewmembers rescued, 1945), Don Hewet, (850) 592-2976, broghew@wfeca.net
USS Shangri-La CV 38 (gunner's mates, 1944-1945), A. Onorato, 9107 Lincolnshire Court, Baltimore, MD 21234

TAPS

Richard E. Anderson, Dept. of District of Columbia. Dept. Cmdr. 1972-1973.
J. Frank Baker, Dept. of North Carolina. Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1964-1965, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cmte. Memb. 1965-1966, Dept. Cmdr. 1970-1971, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1971-1984, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1972-1980 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1980-1984.
Frank V. Buzzell, Dept. of Washington. Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1979-1981, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1980-1981, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1981-1983, Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1983-1987.
Roger L. Clevinger, Dept. of Virginia. Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1996-2002 and Dept. Cmdr. 1998-1999.
Joseph N. Corey, Dept. of Vermont. Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1984-1985, Nat'l Merchant Marine Cmte. Memb. 1995-1996 and Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997.
Donald W. Foote, Dept. of California. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1960-1961, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1962-1963 and 1968-1969, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1964-1968, Nat'l Defense Civil Preparedness Cmte. Memb. 1970-1977, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1972-1974, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Exec. Section 1975-1986 and 1989-2002, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1978-1979, Nat'l

Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1978-1980, Nat'l Res. Subcmte. Memb. 1979-1980, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Memb. 1980-1982, Nat'l Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Cmte. Memb. 1987-1989 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 2001-2002.

Jack O. Gilmont, Dept. of Nebraska. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1979-1981, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1983-1984 and 1988-1989, Dept. Cmdr. 1984-1985, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1988-1992, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1989-1992, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1992-1996, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Liaison Memb. 1992-1996, Nat'l American Legion Press Assn. Memb. 2002 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Region 6 Memb. 2002.

Jay E. Harville, Dept. of Tennessee. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1954-1972, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1990, 1991-1994, 1999-2000 and 2001-2002, Nat'l Publications Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 1963-1965, Dept. Cmdr. 1966-1967, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1968-1970, Nat'l Res. Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1971-1972, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1972-1974, Nat'l Legis. Cmsn. Liaison Cmsn. Memb. 1972-1974, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1974-1975, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 1977-2002, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 3 Chmn. 1982-1983, 1994-1995, 1997-1998 and 2000-2001, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 1 Chmn. 1988-1992 and Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 3 Vice Chmn. 1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1990-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997 and 1999-2000.

Thomas Roumell, Dept. of Michigan. Dept. Cmdr. 1951-1952, Nat'l Conv. Cmsn. Memb. 1952-1955 and 1963-1973, Nat'l Rehab. Insurance Advisory Board Memb. 1955-1956, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1956-1959, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1957-1959, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1959-1961, Nat'l Economic Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1959-1961 and Nat'l Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies Cmte. Chmn. 1961-1962.

Ernest A. Wheaton, Dept. of New Mexico. Nat'l Marksmanship Cmte. Advisory Memb. 1954-1955, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1955-1958 and 1964-1965, Nat'l Inter-American Cmte. Memb. 1962-1964, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Veterans Preference Cncl. 1967-1970, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1969-1970, Dept. Cmdr. 1970-1971, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1971-1976, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1978, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1978-1981, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1981-1987 and Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1981-1987.

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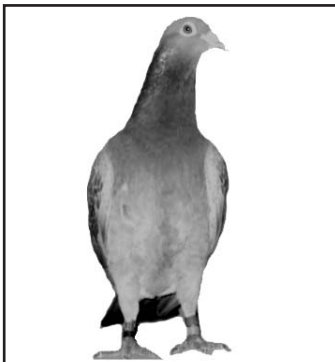
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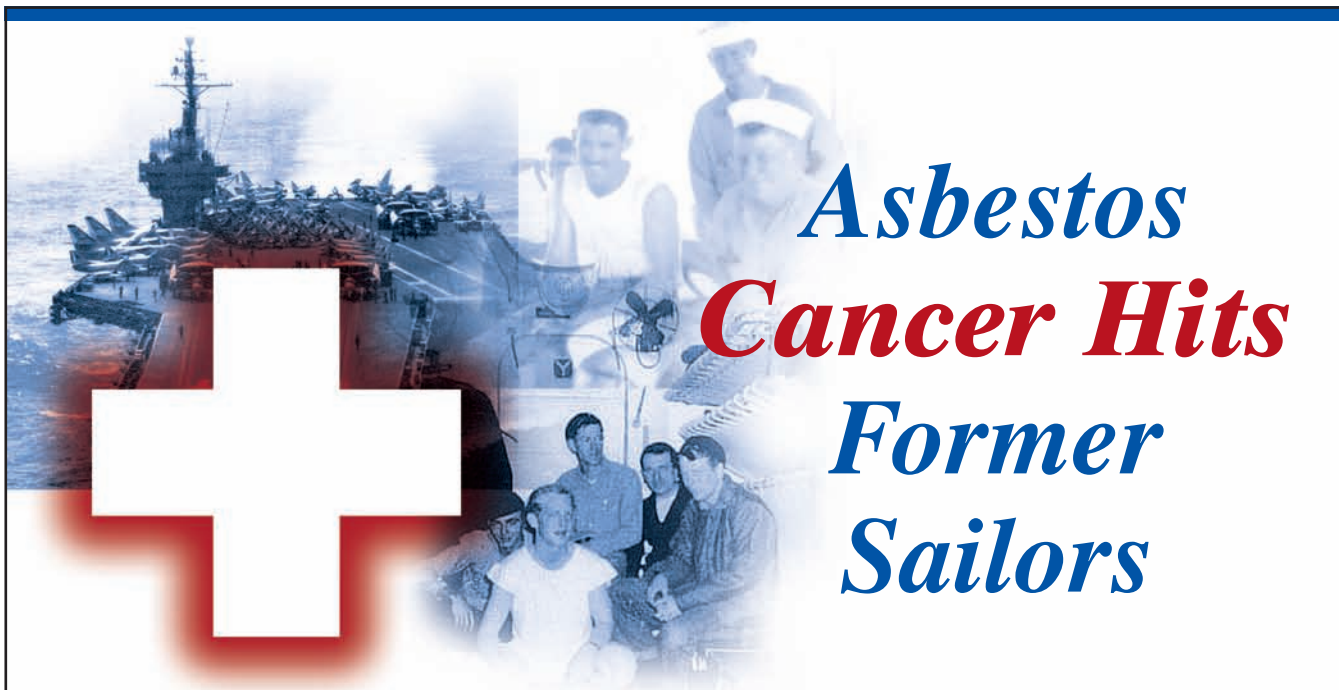
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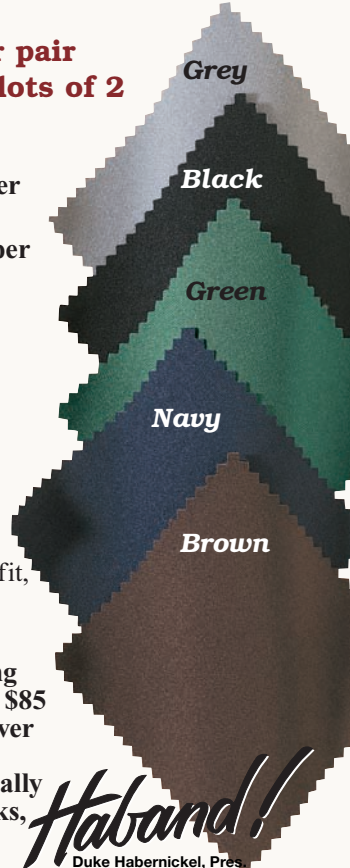
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